



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Mediterranean Forum Foreign Ministers Meet in Egypt

Musa, Turkey's Cetin Preview Meeting

NC0307185094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT
3 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 3 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. The Turkish minister said after the meeting that the talks had dealt with the subjects to be discussed at the meeting of the Mediterranean Forum, which will open later tonight.

Asked about his expectations of the results of this forum, Cetin said that in the wake of the Cold War, various initiatives were made in the world to find new formulas for cooperation. He added that the Mediterranean region is one of the most important areas, as it includes African, Asian, and European states. This forum, he added, is the first step toward studying ways to cooperate among these states to establish peace, stability, and security in the Mediterranean basin. Cetin added that the Forum will also discuss ways to broaden the economic and political cooperation and as such, there will be no agenda for the meeting, but open discussion to find formulas for this cooperation. [passage omitted]

Spanish Foreign Minister Meets Musa

NC0307185394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT
3 Jul 94

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening met with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who arrived in Alexandria earlier today to attend the Mediterranean Forum meetings.

The Spanish minister stated after the meeting that the talks dealt with the topics that will be discussed by the Mediterranean Forum foreign ministers. He expressed the hope that the Forum would be successful.

Solana described the forum as the first of its kind at the ministerial level. He said: Our coming together is of great importance. The Spanish foreign minister affirmed that the topics for discussion are extremely important and deal with economic issues, political dialogue, cultural aspects, and environmental issues. He expressed the hope that the Forum meetings would be followed by other meetings next year. Solana stated that the purpose of these meetings is to achieve prosperity and establish peace and stability in the Mediterranean basin area. He also expressed the hope that all this would be followed by investments and the expansion of economic cooperation among the Mediterranean states. He noted that the Mediterranean European countries maintain close ties with the European Union, which shows increasing interest in the Middle East and the Mediterranean countries.

France's Juppe Arrives for Forum

NC0307213094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT
3 Jul 94

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Jul (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe arrived here this evening to take part in the Mediterranean Forum meetings. Juppe said that his country attaches the utmost importance to all issues related to the Mediterranean basin.

In his arrival statement, the French foreign minister said: The Mediterranean problems concern every one of us. There are some problems as a result of either confrontations or estrangements between certain countries. He noted that there are also security and instability problems due to certain regional crises.

The French foreign minister pointed to the existence of certain economic differences and population problems requiring from all participants to conduct a dialogue and coordinate all efforts. He said there are several initiatives, adding that this forum will be a place for coordination and consultations among the Mediterranean countries.

Musa Addresses Opening Session

NC0307192994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT
3 Jul 94

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has emphasized that Egypt is seeking to establish a new cooperation relationship among the Mediterranean countries. He said that this relationship will be based on equality and on the mutual interests of the littoral states.

In a speech at the opening session of the Mediterranean Forum meetings here today, the foreign minister said that Egypt hopes to shape this relationship gradually and in accordance with the available capabilities. He reiterated that all statements will be worthless if they are not translated into practical steps.

Concluding his speech, the Egyptian foreign minister called for building a developed future relationship compatible with the new international circumstances.

In addition, 'Amr Musa hosted a reception this evening in honor of the participants in the forum. The reception was attended by the ambassadors of the participating countries.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is expected to hold a news conference tomorrow afternoon to announce the results of the discussions.

Juppe Comments on Forum Results

NC0407140794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT
4 Jul 94

[Text] Alexandria, 4 Jul (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has stated that his country backed from

the start the idea of establishing a gathering of Mediterranean states. He hoped that the EU will not forget what he described as "the Mediterranean dimension."

In remarks he made today, the French minister said that when his country presides over the EU early next year, it intends to strengthen the European-Mediterranean cooperation. Juppe said that he is pleased with the results of the Mediterranean Forum that concluded its meetings in Alexandria today. He added: We have decided to set up three working groups. The first will concern political dialogue, which is fundamental since some differences in views exist between the northern and southern Mediterranean countries. He added that the situation in Bosnia reflects these differences.

The French foreign minister pointed out that the second group will discuss cultural issues while the third will deal with social and economic cooperation, transportation, telecommunications, and energy.

Asked if new members could join the Mediterranean Forum, Juppe said that there is no objection to any country joining the forum. He added that France had welcomed Malta's request to join the forum today. He denied that France had previously objected to Malta's membership.

Concluding his statement, Juppe denounced terrorist acts wherever they take place, particularly what happened today in Athens, where a Turkish diplomat was assassinated. He added: We have extended condolences to the Turkish foreign minister over this regrettable incident.

[In a related issue, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 4 Jul adds in an Alexandria-dated report: "French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has stated that he thanked President Hosni Mubarak today for Egypt's support for the French initiative in Rwanda.

["In exclusive remarks to MENA, Juppe said that he discussed with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today Egypt's contribution in this regard, as represented by the dispatch of 20 Egyptian observers to Rwanda. He noted that Musa had assured him that arrangements are being made to send them to Rwanda within the next few days. The French foreign minister pointed out that many African troops are joining the French force in Rwanda. Several European and Mediterranean countries have hastened to send equipment to Rwanda, he added."]

Ministers Meet With Mubarak

NC0407102594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT
4 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 4 Jul (MENA)—This morning at al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak received the foreign ministers participating in the Mediterranean Forum meetings currently convening in Alexandria.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated after the meeting that he had presented President Mubarak with a report, in the presence of the foreign ministers, on the discussions during the meetings held yesterday and today and on what the Forum will do later with regard to establishing a grouping for the Mediterranean countries.

He said President Mubarak discussed this report with the foreign ministers and asked them to speed up steps toward establishing the Forum.

Answering a question on Egypt's ideas on the form of this cooperation among the Mediterranean countries, 'Amr Musa said that the shape of such a grouping cannot be determined now and that its future concept is an issue open to discussion and development. He pointed out that so far the establishment of this grouping is based on study and working groups. It will be presented once again to the ministers at specific dates. There is no definite idea at this point in time on the shape this grouping will take; the doors are open, as is progress in any direction.

The foreign minister added that this Forum could develop and become like the European Union, but could also end up like the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. It might turn into a regional organization, but could stay within a fluid framework.

Answering a question on whether he had held bilateral talks with the French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe on the crisis in Rwanda, 'Amr Musa said that they will discuss this problem later.

On the other hand, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino stated that President Mubarak had affirmed during the meeting the importance of bolstering cooperation between the Mediterranean countries in various fields, especially the economy. [passage omitted]

The Italian minister noted that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's entry into Gaza is considered an important step down the correct road. He expressed his country's hopes for similar steps in the future.

After the meeting, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe expressed his pleasure at meeting President Mubarak. He said in a statement that President Mubarak took the initiative in convening the forum for a dialogue and cooperation among the Mediterranean countries. He pointed out that France has supported this idea ever since it was conceived. [passage omitted]

Asked if during the Forum the French minister had discussed France's request to the United Nations to establish a safe haven in Rwanda, Juppe said: No. But we will discuss this point during the next session.

The French foreign minister affirmed his country's eagerness to hold a constructive dialogue at the United Nations regarding dispatching UN troops to Rwanda. He pointed out that this could happen at the end of July or the beginning of August.

He said this problem now has high priority. He expressed his hopes that the proposals many countries have made on this issue will be followed.

Juppe added that all the countries taking part in the Forum support the French initiative on Rwanda. He noted that Egypt is ready to dispatch around 20 observers to Rwanda to join France in its mission.

Answering a question on whether the Forum's proceedings will result in specific agreements, Juppe said not just yet. He said there is a need to pinpoint the topics of discussion. We will form three working groups, the first of which will discuss economic issues. The second will discuss political matters and the third will address cultural affairs. He added that despite the contacts between the cultures in the past, today we have difficulty reaching understanding. Therefore, we need to hold a dialogue to avert a cultural schism between the two sides of the Mediterranean.

Musa Holds News Conference

NC0407144894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] The Mediterranean Forum ministers wound up their meetings in Alexandria this afternoon.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a news conference at the end of the meetings. He said that the foreign ministers of Egypt, Algeria, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey held the Mediterranean Forum in Alexandria, the most ancient Mediterranean town. 'Amr Musa said that the foreign ministers discussed the activities of this forum. He said that he had submitted a report to President Mubarak on the agreement reached during the Forum meetings, noting that President Mubarak and the Forum foreign ministers discussed the Forum's results and its future action.

Continuing, the foreign minister said that the discussions have demonstrated that the participating countries gave precedence to the cultural aspect rather than to the political and economic aspects. This is because this society includes ancient civilizations, Musa said. He added that the Forum adopted several resolutions. It accepted Malta as a new member. He said that the Forum pointed out that the Mediterranean countries could be called for a meeting in future.

In his news conference, the foreign minister said that the participants agreed to form working groups. Those groups will within the next six months operate in the economic, cultural, and political fields and will study the ideas and proposals which were presented to the Forum.

'Amr Musa said that the Forum foreign ministers condemned the criminal attack on a Turkish diplomat in Athens by a group of terrorists. He said that this criminal attack is one of the problems which must be confronted collectively by the Mediterranean countries.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli 'Source' on Transfer of Civilian Authority

TA0207092694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] A senior Israeli source in the delegation to the talks with the PLO said that the details of the transfer of civilian authority to the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria has already been agreed upon in principle in Washington. The negotiations on this matter would now focus only on the way in which the authority would be actually transferred. The source also told our political correspondent Udi Segal that the transfer of authority would be implemented throughout the entire territory of Judaea and Samaria within several days and not gradually in different areas. On Wednesday [6 July], Yasir 'Arafat will meet in Paris with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres in order to discuss the date of the transfer of authority.

Israeli Statement Details Social Benefits Transfer

TA0507191794 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 0950 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Statement issued by the Finance Ministry spokesman on 7 July]

[Text] A joint Israeli-Palestinian Committee for implementing the transfer of social benefits (pensions, worker insurance, sick pay, etc.) for Palestinian workers employed in Israel has not yet begun work due to the Palestinian Authority's failure to designate representatives to the committee. The Finance Ministry reported yesterday (4 July 94) that it has been ready to hold meetings with the Palestinian Authority's representatives to discuss social benefits issues, as agreed upon in the Paris Economic Agreement signed by the two sides in April.

In the Paris Agreement, it was decided that 75 percent of income tax on salaries paid to Palestinians working in Israel would be directly remitted to the Palestinian Authority for their benefit. Pension benefits for Palestinians working for the Civil Administration and other Israeli sources would be supervised, in accordance with the agreement, to ensure Palestinian workers would not lose their pension rights.

Due to these stipulations, Finance Ministry Budget Director and acting chairman of the Economic Agreement negotiating team David Brodet, said he "was shocked by Palestinian arguments that Israel, supposedly, owes huge amounts of money for social benefits to Palestinian workers employed in Israel."

Brodet said that these topics had already been broached during the economic agreement negotiations in Paris. Following Israel's explanations, a clear negotiating framework and defined cooperation parameters were established to further discuss the issues.

Regarding social benefits provided by the National Insurance Institutes (NII), Brodet noted that from 1970-1994 Israel had remitted National Insurance (Bituach Leumi) payments from Palestinian workers employed in Israel. A portion of the funds were allocated to the budget of the Civil Administration to fund development and welfare project for the Palestinian population. The other component of the remittances remained within the NII in order to protect Palestinian workers' rights, which were considered the same as those of foreign workers.

Concerning pension rights, Brodet said Israel has collected funds earmarked for pensions of Palestinian workers employed in Israel and for those who worked for the Civil Administration. In the Paris Agreement, a framework was agreed upon for protecting Palestinian workers' pension rights. A framework and a system for implementing it will be finalized in the joint Israeli-Palestinian economic committee which has not yet to met as a result of the Palestinians failure to appoint representatives to the committee.

First Coordination Meeting With Jordan Held

TA0607071894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Defense Ministry, IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and Foreign Ministry representatives held their first coordination meeting with Jordanian representatives on the border about 10 km north of Elat. This was learned by our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe. The encounter took place in a tent set up on the military road for that purpose.

The Israeli and the three Jordanian representatives toured several points along the border to decide where the peace talks will be held in mid-July. Administrative and logistic matters were finalized in what was defined an amicable meeting.

The first Israeli-Jordanian encounter will take place near the coordination talks area, and infrastructure works have already been launched to prepare the encounter site. The talks will be held inside campers or tents to be set up for that purpose. In future, talks will take place alternately in al-'Aqabah and in one of the Elat area townships.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Rabin, Peres To Meet in Paris 6 Jul

To Discuss Autonomy, Accept UN Prize

AU0507204894 Paris AFP in English 2016 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Paris, July 5 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasser 'Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will meet in Paris Wednesday [6 July] to discuss the future of Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories and accept a UN peace prize.

Right after their morning arrival, the three are due to meet for an hour.

The Israeli-Palestinian summit, which follows 'Arafat's triumphant return to his homeland for the first time in 27 years, will be the first top-level meeting since the Cairo agreement on autonomy in Jericho and the Gaza strip was signed two months ago.

The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation has said he would be returning "for good" to the newly autonomous regions so he can keep a better eye on developments there.

In Jericho Tuesday, 'Arafat and his Palestinian Authority "ministers" took an oath of office and immediately set about preparing a budget, new laws and a home-building programme for the underdeveloped territories, which they will run until elections likely in mid-October.

In Paris, 'Arafat and his seven-member delegation are expected to push for a quick withdrawal of all Israeli troops so that the elections could take place without an Israeli military presence.

The three must also discuss details of the transfer of powers, covering tourism, health, education, taxation and welfare, outlined in the original peace agreement signed in Washington last September.

'Arafat is likely to raise financial issues with his French hosts, following his repeated complaints about the delay in the disbursement of promised western funding to the new Palestinian authorities.

Out of a total 2.6 billion dollars promised over five years, including 720 million for 1994, only some 50 million have been distributed to date.

A meeting of creditors planned for next weekend in Paris has been delayed until the autumn, following difficulties faced by the Palestinian economy "minister" Ahmed Korei during a recent visit to the United States.

'Arafat and the Israeli leaders will be received separately by French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

They will receive a joint peace prize from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), awarded by a team headed by former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

PNA Member Previews Paris Talks

NC0607063194 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian National Authority Council, in Gaza, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Husayn] Dr. al-Agha, what are the most important subjects that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will discuss with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Paris after receiving the UNESCO peace prize?

[Al-Agha] There are many topics, primarily the transfer of power in all parts of the West Bank to the Palestinians. This will begin with the redeployment of the Israeli forces outside cities and villages and the deployment of Palestinian forces and police inside them. The second subject concerns issues left over from the Gaza-Jericho agreement, such as the detainees, something on which we will concentrate as a very important issue. The Palestinians insist on releasing all the detainees in accordance with the Cairo Agreement. There are also the crossing points and other issues and the problem of Palestinian funds with the Israeli Government, a subject that will be discussed with a view to transferring these funds to the Palestinian Authority. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] Dr. al-Agha, in his speeches and meetings, Palestinian President 'Arafat obviously focussed on the establishment of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. How do you analyze the recent Israeli statements regarding Jerusalem?

[Al-Agha] The Israelis always try to make statements that conflict with the Declaration of Principles between the Israeli Government and the PLO, especially as far as Jerusalem is concerned. Jerusalem will be on the negotiating table for a permanent solution. But in the interim, inhabitants of Arab Jerusalem will participate in the election. According to the agreement, Israel should take no measures in Jerusalem that could change the status of the city. Israeli statements that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital and that the city will remain united under Israeli sovereignty are irresponsible. We reject them and consider east Jerusalem an integral part of the occupied territories and the capital of Palestine. In the negotiations for a permanent solution, the Palestinians will insist on this. [passage omitted]

'Arafat-Rabin Deal on Yasin's Release Reported

JN0507143794 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 5-6 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by 'Umar Kullab]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources told AKHIR KHABAR that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat canceled a speech he was planning to deliver on the day of his arrival in Gaza, in which he was expected to state the constants for the next stage and to speak in detail about Jerusalem and the Palestinian state.

The sources added that 'Arafat canceled that speech following a strong protest by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin because of the problems this speech would create for him with the Army and the Israeli right.

After Egyptian President Husni Mubarak interceded, a compromise was reached whereby 'Arafat would cancel his speech—which was drafted by Abu-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas] and whose final touches were carefully added by Mahmud Darwish [former PLO Executive Committee member]—in return for Rabin's promise to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the leader of HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], no later than mid-July. This release will make up for the popular support 'Arafat would have received from that political speech.

Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, the HAMAS spokesman in Jordan, told AKHIR KHABAR that the movement could not deny or confirm the report about 'Arafat's cancellation of his speech. He added that those who heard the speech noted that 'Arafat only lightly tackled basic and important issues such as Jerusalem.

Ghawshah reiterated the HAMAS Movement's position, which rejects any conditions for the release of Shaykh Yasin, and renewed its position on the whole peace process.

President 'Arafat left Gaza this morning for Jericho on board an Egyptian helicopter, escorted by Israeli military helicopters.

'Arafat Departure, PNA Session Reported

FA0507190794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Report by Ron Nest'el]

[Excerpts] 'Arafat is leaving Jericho today, leaving his colleagues, the ministers of the Palestinian Authority, with a long series of burning problems. 'Arafat did not bring blank checks with him, but the members of the authority are already talking about the distribution of the budgets. The first decisions made during the first session of the Palestinian Authority today include the construction of more than 20,000 housing units, sewage and sanitation projects in Gaza, and busywork and unemployment money for the released prisoners. It was also agreed that Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn will prepare amendments to the military laws which are in effect in the territories. Still, most of the discussion focused on tomorrow's meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin and Peres in Paris. The composition of the Palestinian delegation was determined, and it was agreed that besides the Palestinian prisoner issue the delegation will also raise questions which concern the redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the territories. Nabil Sha'th says reference is to strategic questions which are very important for the continuation of the peace process.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] Are we going to finish first the transfer of civilian authorities or are we going to go in parallel with the redeployment of Israeli forces? All of these have a substantive implication, but they are of strategic nature, but also we will discuss

release of prisoners. I hope, altogether, the meetings tomorrow will come out with something concrete and will really be a good start for the negotiations and the continuation of this peace process, as it has been scheduled by the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington. [end recording]

Sha'th hopes for concrete results from tomorrow's meeting. Incidentally, he was asked about 'Arafat's conduct during the flight from Gaza to Jericho. He was nostalgic and emotional. Sha'th said about 'Arafat: He was happier than I had ever seen him before. [passage omitted]

Following the short swearing-in ceremony, Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir] told the numerous reporters who surrounded her:

[Begin Umm-Jihad recording, in English] I hope to reach real peace when the Palestinian independent state comes. [end recording]

I hope to reach real peace when the independent Palestinian state is founded, Umm-Jihad said, noting that in his remarks about Jihad for the sake of Jerusalem, 'Arafat meant a political struggle only.

The visit is over today. This evening 'Arafat will leave from Cairo for Paris. He left Jericho the way he came, aboard an Egyptian helicopter which was escorted by an IDF helicopter, and he promises to return on Saturday to live in Gaza.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 5 July adds that "Some Neturey Qarta people were enraged today and even threatened Rabbi Moshe Hirsch with a boycott after the arrival of the rabbi in Jericho this morning in order to congratulate Yasir 'Arafat. Hirsch who was appointed minister for Jewish affairs in the autonomy council ascended the speakers' podium and hugged and kissed 'Arafat."]

'Official List' of Palestinian Authority 'Ministers'

NC0507170894 Paris AFP in English 1634 GMT
5 Jul 94

[AFP headline: "Official List of New Palestinian 'Cabinet'"]

[Text] Tunis, July 5 (AFP)—Here is the list of the 15 "ministers" appointed so far to the new Palestinian Authority, 12 of whom swore an oath of office with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Jericho on Tuesday [5 July]:

- Planning and international cooperation: Nabil Sha'th
- Economy and trade: Ahmad Quray
- Finance: Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi
- Justice: Furayh Abu-Middayn
- Housing: Zakariya al-Agha
- Arts and culture: Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh
- Health: Riyad al-Za'nun
- Education: Yasir 'Amru

- Tourism and archeology: Ilyas Frayj
- Labour: Samir Ghawshah
- Telecommunications: 'Abd-al-Hafiz Al-Ashhab
- Local government: Sa'ib 'Urayqat
- Youth and sports: 'Azmi al-Shuwaybi
- Social affairs: Intisar al-Wazir
- Transport and communications: 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad

Two ministers without portfolios are Faysal al-Husayni and Munib Al-Masri.

The three "ministers" absent from the swearing-in ceremony were Quray, who was on a visit to the United States, and 'Abd-Rabbuh and Ghawshah, who were in Tunisia.

Under the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord signed in Cairo on May 4, the new authority is to have 24 members. Twenty candidates have been named so far, and 18 have accepted to join the Authority which includes 'Arafat as chairman.

The Authority will govern the self-rule areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip until elections scheduled for mid-October.

Sha'th Says al-Husayni Not Sworn-In With Others

JN0507115194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100
GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat presided over the swearing-in ceremony of 12 ministers in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in Jericho today. The ceremony was held at the headquarters of the former Israeli military ruler.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the PNA, said that Minister Without Portfolio Faysal al-Husayni did not take the constitutional oath, contrary to what was expected, because al-Husayni wants to continue taking care of Jerusalem from Jerusalem itself.

Israel insists that all the PNA institutions be set up in Jericho.

Mrs. 'Arafat 'Coming To Stay' in Jericho

TA0307135694 Tel Aviv YED'OT AHLARONOT in
Hebrew 3 Jul 94 p 9

[Report on "special" telephone interview with Suha 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Smadar Peri, in Cairo, on 2 July]

[Text] [Peri] "I am leaving for Jericho within a few days, next week at the latest, and I am very excited. I am happy. I am not coming to visit but to stay for good. I am coming to live there. I am returning to my roots, to the cradle of my birth."

This was what Suha 'Arafat told me yesterday in a special interview to YEDI'OT AHARONOT over the phone from Tunis to Cairo.

"I am hooked to the television set from the moment my husband arrived in Palestine," Suha 'Arafat explained, stressing the word "Palestine" and not the Gaza Strip. "We sit together, a group of the wives of Palestinian leaders, my adopted children are also with me, and we are all glued to the television. I am the only one who disturbs everyone watching by going out every ten minutes to give interviews to television stations. The Americans, in particular, are always after me to give interviews."

[Peri] Your husband surprised the entire world when he announced he was going to the Gaza Strip. Were you in on the big secret?

[S. 'Arafat] I did not know until the last minute. Living with 'Arafat means living in the shadow of many secrets. He does not share them with me, he lets me know when necessary. This time, I learned about his departure for the Gaza Strip from a journalist over the phone.

[Peri] When you learned about it, you must have looked for him. What did 'Arafat say?

[S. 'Arafat] It was a day before his departure. He said he was going, but at such times he prefers to keep silent rather than speak so as not to spoil the historic moment. I only said three words to him: God bless you.

[Peri] Did he propose that you join him?

[S. 'Arafat] My husband explained that I could not be an exception. I had to stay with the wives of the other Palestinian leaders and our adopted children and wait patiently.

[Peri] Do you have patience?

[S. 'Arafat] Since I already know that I will leave for Palestine next week, I have patience. I must wait until all our adopted children finish the end-of-year exams at their schools and universities. When the last exam is over, we will leave immediately. Everything is prepared.

[Peri] What are you bringing with you?

[S. 'Arafat] As far as personal effects go, nothing. I have everything. Do not forget that we have houses in Ramallah and Nablus. They have also prepared a place for us to live in Jericho.

I will be accompanied by the 50 orphans my husband has adopted during the years of the struggle. Their ages range from eight to 20. I will also be joined by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's wife [Liana Badr, who was born in Jerusalem], the wives of the Palestinian ambassadors, and perhaps also the wife of Faruq Qaddumi.

[Peri] Are you afraid that something bad may happen to your husband in Gaza? Do you fear that there may be an attempt to assassinate him?

[S. 'Arafat] At the first moment, I was frightened. Then I thought to myself: A great man like 'Arafat has already survived dozens of traumatic incidents. Anyone living by 'Arafat's side learns to overcome fear. There is no other way. Surely you remember the plane crash in the Libyan desert and the attempts on his life. If he is still alive then God must be on his side. Therefore, there is no reason to be afraid. He has already faced many dangers and emerged unscathed.

[Peri] Have you seen on television the furious demonstrations in Israel against the visit?

[S. 'Arafat] I find it only natural that there be an opposition in Israel. We also have an opposition. But time will have its effect. Look, one year ago 'Arafat could not have visited. You would not have let him. Now, the goal is to break the psychological barrier. Everything will happen in its own time. I make a point of following the opposition in Israel but I would like to explain that I definitely understand this phenomenon. I find demonstrations perfectly normal. I believe that eventually even those in the opposition will realize there is no other choice. There has been enough violence and bereavement.

[Peri] When you arrive, do you want to visit Jerusalem?

[S. 'Arafat] I was born in Jerusalem and grew up in Ramallah. If I am given the opportunity, I would be more than happy to visit Jerusalem.

[Peri] How long are you coming for?

[S. 'Arafat] I am not coming on a visit, I am coming to stay!

PLO Radio Terms 'Arafat Gaza Visit 'Historic'

JN0207200294 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1600 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Undoubtedly, brother leader President Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to the self-rule areas is considered a historic visit in all its dimensions. It is an entrenchment of the independent decisionmaking and the strong Palestinian determination to pursue the march of peace and reconstruction until the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. Brother leader Abu-'Ammar's arrival in the homeland is considered a clear and strong consecration of the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority on the land of our homeland, Palestine, and a historic cohesion between the Palestinian people and their pioneering leadership to achieve all our national aspirations for freedom, independence, and the building of the Palestinian identity, the Palestinian homeland, and the new Palestinian society based on democracy and equality. This democracy has characterized the Palestinian struggle throughout the revolution's march toward the homeland and the independent state.

In accordance with this democracy, all fateful decisions were made under the most critical and difficult circumstances.

This historic visit has attracted the attention of all Arab and international news media and overshadowed all other news. This shows the importance and significance of the Palestinian developments on the Arab and world levels. Based on this, leader President Abu-'Ammar has called on the international community to honor its commitments and to translate words into deeds, particularly regarding the provision of funds required for development and construction in order to guarantee the success of the peace process.

Still, we have to say that the march of repatriation has laid basic pillars for the establishment of the homeland, and that the first step which began in Gaza will undoubtedly end in holy Jerusalem.

Paper Views 'Arafat's Return, Speech

TA0507161394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Jul 94
p 13

[Editorial: "A Historic Event"]

[Text] For the first time in ancient and modern history part of the homeland will belong to the Palestinians and some of the powers of authority will belong to some of the people. All this took concrete form the moment Yasir 'Arafat passed through the Rafah crossing point and stood before the masses in Gaza yesterday.

For these reasons an observer, especially a Palestinian, cannot but record 1 July 1994, the return of the Palestinian leader, and his meeting with the Strip's sons with mixture of joy with apprehension and hope mixed with fear.

Some of the land has been liberated and we now have a national authority, although with limited powers. Part of our people have become free in their small homeland. How can we not be happy about this?

But other large parts of the homeland are still in the grip of the Israeli occupation, the land of the national authority itself is surrounded by the occupation and settlements, Jerusalem is being strangled by Judaization, and more than half our people are in the diaspora and refugee camps. How can we not be apprehensive? 'Arafat, who lead the Palestinian struggle over the past three decades, is well aware of these facts. The manifestations of his return and his speech before those who greeted him in Gaza came as an expression of the situation.

'Arafat kissed the homeland's soil and his eyes welled with tears as he drove from al-'Arish to Gaza. In his emotional and extemporary speech before the crowds that gathered in Gaza he stressed the need of finding a political and religious solution for Jerusalem. He paid tribute to the detainees and prisoners, especially Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, called for national unity and repeated this

several times, named the towns of the West Bank, and paid tribute to the children of the stones.

Yesterday's embodiment of known peace agreements is but a beginning. The road toward achievement of full peace is still long and difficult. The challenge of the stage dictates that the Palestinian people unite following the start of the 1,000 mile journey.

'Arafat: Entry to Gaza Answer to 'Those Who Fear Peace'

PM0607091894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by 'Ali al-Salih in London, Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo, and the Information Services Center in Gaza: "'Arafat Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: My Entry Into Gaza Provides the Answer to Those Who Fear Peace"]

[Excerpt] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has pledged to do everything he can to consolidate peace in reality on the ground through work and cooperation with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 'Arafat said: I have not come to Gaza alone; I have entered with a great measure of Arab and international political support. He expressed the hope that financial aid would materialize as soon as possible so that peace can be established in Palestine, the land of peace.

He said that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is above all a symbol of the Arab nation's choice of peace as a path and a commitment.

'Arafat said that his entry into Gaza was tantamount to a referendum and a positive reply to those who fear the peace agreement. Peace, he said, is a value and an aim for the Palestinian people at home and abroad and I believe that the courage of peace today drives me to pursue a new course, forget the era of confrontation, and start an era of cooperation and construction.

In conclusion, he said: After I return from Paris I will live in Gaza and Jericho to participate with my people in building peace and mending all its institutions. I will meet with everyone here in Gaza and Jericho, with all the peace-loving people. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Delivers Message of Peace to Israeli Youth

TA0307192094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Discussion between anchorwoman Micky Haimowitz, in the studio, and Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, in Gaza City—live]

[Text] [Haimowitz] Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Jericho only on Tuesday [5 July] and not tomorrow. In Jericho, he will swear in the Palestinian Autonomy Authority and convene its first meeting. 'Arafat will leave Jericho for

Jordan through the Allenby Bridge on Tuesday evening. From there he will fly to Paris for his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres. Our correspondent Aharon Barne'a is currently in Gaza City. Good evening.

[Barne'a] Good evening.

[Haimowitz] These changes in the date and route, do they fall within the framework of surprises or is something planned here?

[Barne'a] No, not much is planned here. The problem stemmed from the fact that 'Arafat decided on this whole visit, on his arrival in Gaza and Jericho, at very short notice. This causes many changes, a lot of confusion, delays, a great deal of planning, and many problems in preparing the places 'Arafat decides to arrive, including Jericho. There are technical and security arrangements to look after. Yesterday evening in 'Arafat's office, we heard a consultation between 'Arafat's aides, Palestinian police commander Nasr Yusuf, and Nabil Sha'ath who came and announced that Major General Amnon Shahaq had told him that Israel had no objections to 'Arafat flying from Gaza to Jericho in Egyptian Air Force helicopters. 'Arafat will visit Jordan in a bid to try and somewhat compensate King Husayn, who is furious that 'Arafat arrived in the Gaza Strip and Jericho from Egypt and not through Jordan.

[Haimowitz] What did the chairman do today?

[Barne'a] This morning the chairman left his residence in Gaza City to inaugurate a new citrus factory in the strip. Thousands of local residents cheered him along his route. 'Arafat, surrounded by Palestinian policemen, spent most of the ride standing up in the car. Crowds awaited him at the entrance to the new factory, which was established with Italian assistance, and the inauguration ceremony also aroused much emotion.

Yesterday evening, 'Arafat was scheduled to host a news conference for Israeli correspondents. At the last moment he canceled it. Apparently, 'Arafat was incensed that Israel had rejected 19 names out of the list of people he had submitted and forbidden them to accompany him to the Gaza Strip and Jericho. However, after the news conference was canceled, we were summoned, [Israeli peace activist] Abie Nathan and the Channel 2 crew to 'Arafat's bureau. Here is a video report of the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Barne'a] 'Arafat appeared for the news conference but at the last minute decided to leave. The real reason was Israel's announcement that it would not permit 19 members of 'Arafat's entourage to enter the Gaza Strip and Jericho. 'Arafat angrily turned on his heel and left, sending his media adviser with a somewhat pathetic excuse.

[Media adviser Marwan Kanafani, in English] You know that something happened. I do not know.

[Barne'a] Several moments later, however, we were led into 'Arafat's room together with Abie Nathan.

['Arafat, in English] You are most welcome. You are my brother, you know. You are my brother.

[Barne'a] Although 'Arafat will now admit to being tired, he still naturally fixes the top of his keffiyah, so that the emblem, God forbid, will not be messed up in front of the cameras.

['Arafat, in English] I am very tired. No sleeping, no....

[Barne'a] 'Arafat is still excited from the reception he received several hours before in Jabalyah.

['Arafat, in English] We are committed to the peace, and you know Jabalyah is very important place. You see, all those who are including all the opposition are there. So I said we are committed to the peace, the peace of the brave.

[Barne'a] We asked 'Arafat whether he had anything to say to Israeli youth.

[Barne'a, in English] This is the most important thing?

['Arafat, in English] Yes, a new era for our new generations. That a new era in the Middle East has started. And, we are neighbors, we can coordinate, cooperate, in all fields by all means for the sake of our new children. Their future, the Israeli children and the Palestinian children, and the children of the whole area in the Middle East. We can say to you, Mabruk [Arabic for congratulations] and to you, Mabruk. And you can say it to me, Mabruk.

[Barne'a and Natan, in English] To you also, to you too.

[Barne'a] Abie Nathan told 'Arafat that he would contribute the Voice of Peace radio station's transmitters to the Palestinian radio station. 'Arafat thanked him and declared that if that was the case, he would call the Palestinian radio in Gaza City the Voice of Palestine, the Voice of Peace. [end recording]

'Arafat Grants 'Nonpolitical' Interview

PM0507155694

[Editorial report] London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 July publishes on page 3 a 2,000-word interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat conducted by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din before 'Arafat's departure for Gaza; interview is dated Tunis, with no date given. 'Arafat reportedly declined to give a political interview but agreed to a nonpolitical interview, saying: "I prefer not to talk these days, because I do not want to offend anyone." 'Arafat's wife Suha joins in and says rumors about 'Arafat's health are "fabricated" by those who do not want "Palestinian rights to be restored to their owners." 'Arafat remembers "the Arab brothers—Lebanese, Egyptian, Syrian, and so on—who were martyred with us for the sake of the cause." He says: "It saddens me a great deal to be returning without the comrades in struggle: Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], Kamal Nasir...."

'Arafat talks about his friendship with Nelson Mandela, saying "I have invited Mandela and African leaders to visit Jericho and Gaza." 'Arafat says he will continue to wear military uniform: "My military uniform will stay." Asked how he could shake hands with Yitzhaq Rabin, 'Arafat says: "It is the peace of the brave. When Richard the Lionheart, commander of the crusaders, fell ill, Saladin sent his own physician to treat and cure him. I told Yitzhaq Rabin of this incident when I first met with him. I also told him: I am the only general whom you have never defeated."

'Arafat is quoted as saying that he relaxes by watching cartoon films sometimes and by visiting his children in their homes: "My children are the children of the strugglers who were martyrs for the sake of liberation."

'Abd-al-Shafi Welcomes 'Arafat Call for Elections

TA0307044994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] One of the local Palestinian leaders who embraced Yasir 'Arafat on his arrival is Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, founder of the Democratic Front in the Gaza Strip. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi resigned from the chairmanship of the Palestinian negotiating team because he thought 'Arafat was making too many concessions and because he found 'Arafat's style autocratic.

Reporter Mark Weiss asked 'Abd-al-Shafi what he thought about 'Arafat's arrival speech:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Shafi] He spoke about some issues: about the unity of the Palestinians; about making unity with all factions, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and others; he spoke about democracy, so these are positive aspects, but not about any specificities. I do not think so. But, general, it is okay. I mean that the speech befits with the moment.

[Weiss] You, of course, have been amongst the leaders of Palestinians in the territories criticizing Mr. 'Arafat—his lack of democracy, autocratic style. Yesterday it seemed to me that 'Arafat clearly called to build a democratic society. He also called for early elections in the territories. Do you see this is a possible beginning of a change?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I hope. I am not so sure whether.... [pauses] I mean, it is good that he said these things, but how much he is prepared to modify his conduct that can be in consistence with what he is saying, that would be great. But, anyhow, as long as he is calling for elections, I think the elections will start the democratization process in the Palestinian society, and then 'Arafat and others will have to conform to the democratic ideas. [end recording]

Tunisia Tells 'Arafat To Relocate PLO Headquarters

TA0507152594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jul 94 p 5

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[Excerpt] The Tunisian Government last week told Yasir 'Arafat that following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the PLO had to dismantle its headquarters in Tunis.

"You will always be a respected guest here," the representatives of the Tunisian Government told 'Arafat, "but our role as your hosts is over. You have to tell your people to find themselves some other place."

YEDI'OT AHARONOT learned from a senior PLO source that the Tunisian message, which was categorically clear, was the reason for 'Arafat's surprising announcement yesterday that he would settle permanently in the autonomous areas.

The agreement reached between 'Arafat and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali permits a quota of PLO officials to reside in Tunis. The senior members among those remaining are Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the political department, and Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO's ambassador to Tunis.

Following the announcement by the Tunisian Government, 'Arafat asked the Egyptian Government for permission to relocate the PLO's "foreign" base from Tunis to Cairo. The Egyptians have so far given no reply.

On the eve of his departure to Gaza, Yasir 'Arafat convened the PLO leadership in Tunis and told them that they had to leave the country within a short time. YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned that many of 'Arafat's close associates, who lived in Tunis for many years, have closed up their rented apartments and houses in Tunis and sent their families to Amman and other Arab countries, until they find places to live in the territories. [passage omitted]

PLO Resumes Financial Aid to Refugees in Lebanon

NC0507145394 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 5 (AFP)—The PLO has resumed financial aid to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and named a new Fatah command in a bid to win back shipping support, PLO officials said here Tuesday.

The announcement came as PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat made a landmark visit to the West Bank town of Jericho to swear in members of the new Palestinian Authority.

The Fatah fell out of favour with many Palestinian refugees in Lebanon after the historic PLO-Israeli handshake on September 13 which led to the signing of the May 4 agreement launching self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The accord ignores an immediate solution to the fate of Palestinians forced out of their lands when Israel was created in 1948.

Sympathy for the PLO also fell after the organisation drastically reduced financial, social and medical aid to Lebanon's refugees following the start of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid in October 1991.

Fatah officials identified the members of the new command as Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, Badi' Krayyim, Kamal Midhat and Khalid 'Arif.

The new Fatah command, the third in less than a year, immediately contacted dissident Fatah official Munir Maqdash who controls the 'Ayn-al-Hulwah Camp, Lebanon's largest on the eastern outskirts of the southern port of Sidon.

Maqdash has repeatedly denounced the Gaza-Jericho autonomy accord as treason and on Friday called on Palestinian militants to kill PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat as he returned to the Gaza Strip.

Ten days ago the PLO leadership sent 450,000 dollars to Lebanon to pay the salaries of its employees and Palestinian families who have lost a "martyr" in the struggle against Israel after a 15-month delay, and promised to resume monthly payments soon.

The financial aid comes as the Iranian-backed Institute of the Palestinian Martyrs is pouring thousands of dollars in aid into Lebanon's refugee camps in cooperation with Palestinian dissidents, namely Maqdash.

Hamas Figure on Election Plan, Cooperation With PNA

NC0607065994 Paris AFP in English 2341 GMT
5 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 6 (AFP)—The hard-line Palestine resistance group Hamas intends to stand in the forthcoming elections in the autonomous Palestinian territories to fight the PLO-Israeli agreement from the inside, a Hamas leader said here.

Ahmad Bahr, saying the autonomy deal for the Gaza Strip and Jericho had created a new situation, added that Hamas was prepared to cooperate with the Palestine National Authority [PNA], which will administer the territories, in the fields of security and public life.

Hamas would not for instance attack joint Israeli-Palestinian security patrols, in order to preserve the life of Palestinian police, but it would continue its armed struggle in areas still occupied by Israel.

"(Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhaq Rabin is betting on a Palestinian civil war," Bahr said. "For us, Palestinian national unity is not to be broken."

The group wanted to set up a political party which would be neither an alternative nor a rival to Hamas, with the aim of being present on the political stage while maintaining its military wing, "in order to adapt to the new reality of autonomy," Bahr said.

Hamas was prepared to take part in the elections for a Palestinian council planned for later this year, "if they are aimed at designating true representatives of the Palestinian people, without internal or external pressure and with the participation of the Palestinians of the diaspora."

If the involvement of Palestinians abroad proved difficult, Hamas was prepared to discuss the problem, added Bahr, one of 400 Islamic militants expelled to southern Lebanon by Israel in December 1992.

Hamas's aim was still "the liberation of every inch of Palestinian territory," he said.

DFLP, PFLP Announce 'National Salvation Program'

NC0507152094 Paris AFP in English 1339 GMT
5 Jul 94

[Text] Damascus, July 5 (AFP)—Hard-line Palestinian groups announced here on Tuesday a joint "national salvation program" to fight the Israeli-PLO self-rule accord.

The Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP) called on "all groups and individuals devoted to Palestinian national rights and determined to make the accord fail to form a broad national front."

Their announcement came on the same day as PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat presided over the swearing-in of 12 "ministers" of the new self-rule authority in Jericho.

The DFLP of Nayif Hawatimah and the PFLP led by George Habash, two of the three largest members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation besides 'Arafat's Fatah, oppose the Cairo accord signed on May 4 launching self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Abu-Layla, DFLP Politburo member, said the two groups wanted to "unite in the next stage of the armed struggle and Palestinian uprising for the creation of an independent Palestinian state, despite the concessions made by 'Arafat."

He added: "This choice will form the basis of talks with other national and Islamic groups."

The DFLP and the PFLP are already part of an alliance of Palestinian forces, which groups 10 movements opposed to the autonomy accord including two Islamic movements, the Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

But Abu-'Ali Mustapha, the PFLP's second in command, acknowledged the "weakness of the alliance, which threatens its freedom of action."

Abu-Layla added: "There are three currents of opinion within the alliance and different points of view which we want to bring together by broadening dialogue with other movements."

PNA Expected To Brief King Husayn on Gaza Talks

JN0407115994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 24

["Exclusive" report from Gaza by Samir Sa'd-al-Din]

[Text] Some members of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], including Yasir 'Amr, have confirmed that some PNA members will visit Jordan at the end of their current visit to the Palestinian self-rule areas.

They said that the PNA members wish to meet His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials to brief them on the atmosphere of the meetings and discussions held in Gaza and Jericho as well as on future Palestinian action plans based on the principle of commitment to the special and distinguished Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

The PNA members noted that President Yasir 'Arafat chose not to enter the national authority area through Jericho so that he would not have to drive the 8 km between the bridge and the first Palestinian checkpoint under Israeli protection.

Most of the PNA members are demanding that President 'Arafat travel to Amman immediately after he returns to Cairo.

In another development, PNA member Zakariya al-Agha told AL-DUSTUR that the PNA meeting in Gaza discussed the political and economic situation as well as the citizens' problems in general without any detailed discussion of any sector, but with the hopes of doing so in future meetings especially with regard to the national authority departments, their duties and programs.

Marwan Kanafani, the Palestinian president's media consultant, told AL-DUSTUR that the PNA meeting and President 'Arafat's discussions with the delegations he met and with Fatah Movement cadres focused on the need to expedite Israel's withdrawal from the rest of the occupied territories and to reduce the period of the current negotiations in order to define the points from which to proceed in all fields.

Kanafani said that the crossing points will soon be discussed although there is already an agreement on this issue. He said that all the territories occupied since 1967 must be returned.

Well-informed Palestinian sources said that the Palestinians have prepared maps and new demands for the negotiations on boundaries to the effect that if Israel keeps any of the territories occupied in 1967, it should offer other areas in return and that the Gaza Strip should be open for expansion.

It was noticed that President 'Arafat's discussions with the PNA members demonstrated Palestinian concern over the economic situation. 'Arafat was disappointed

by promises of the donor states which did not implement even the minimum level required.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th was instructed to demand during his negotiations with Israel the money kept by the Israelis and which belongs to the PNA in the form of tax and customs returns.

Paper Calls on Opposition To Join Authority

TA0507192394 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 4 Jul 94 pp 3, 7

[Editorial: "The Visit, the Opposition, and the Challenges of the Stage"]

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Palestinian territories represents a turning point in the Palestinian problem. The fact that tens of thousands of victimized Palestinian people came out spontaneously to welcome and greet him means only one thing. Apart from indicating support for 'Arafat's policy and the strategy of peace, it was a referendum on his leadership. If President 'Arafat has said that although this settlement is not what we had sought, it was the best that could have been achieved under Arab and Palestinian circumstances.

It is easy to criticize President 'Arafat by opposing the agreement, but if the opposition does not propose a logical alternative the attempt to destroy this agreement will mean continuation of the contemptible situation to which the Palestinian people have reached under the yoke of the occupation. As for leveling criticism in the name of democracy and accusing the current leadership of making decisions in a dictatorial manner, the leadership is aware of this criticism, and the upcoming elections for the national authority, to be held in a few months, will prove whether the criticism is valid or not.

It should be stressed that the argument over this agreement will go on until the coming generations. What is happening today is a turning point on the path which the leadership has taken since and before 1948. The Palestinian strategy was based on non-renunciation of Palestinian rights from the river to the sea and leaving the problem to future generations. All of us realized the failure of this strategy when the Palestinian people's sons felt that they had been pushed into a corner and that time was working against their hopes and aspirations; for, Israel is continuing with its policy aimed at reducing the Palestinian presence on the homeland's soil by building and expanding settlements and by confiscating more land daily without any hindrance. There are those who wager on leaving the Palestinian problem to future generations, then suggest clearly what will be the situation of those generations and how they will be able to build a generation that will have better chances of reaching a settlement with Israel that guarantees their existence and survival.

If, undoubtedly, the opposition is acting out of national fervor and a genuine Palestinian feeling, duty makes it incumbent upon them to agree to participate in the

authority. This is an essential participation at this delicate stage through which the Palestinian people and cause are passing. It is also a challenge which President 'Arafat has thrown before the opposition to help in building the future state for which we had always dreamed and offered legions of martyrs in order to reach this achievement, which today we are seeing as a tangible reality.

Mayor Urges 'Serious' Approach to Gaza Problems

PM0507145294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Jul 94
p 5

[Interview with Gaza Municipal Council Chairman Mansur al-Shawwa by Muhammad 'Allam in Gaza; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Allam] What is required from President 'Arafat for the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Shawwa] First of all, Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] return is in accordance with the agreement between Israel and the Palestinian leadership. Although 'Arafat's visit is short, we had hoped he would do something for Gaza, because 80 percent of its people live below the poverty line. The reason is Israel's failure to implement what was understood from the agreement as a commitment to return workers to Israel. We hope that 'Arafat will do something to provide employment opportunities for the unemployed. If he is unable to do that in a short period of time, he personally should work to achieve that, not through his representatives, because they have failed to achieve anything. [passage omitted]

['Allam] Do you not believe that the Palestinian leadership is dealing with these problems seriously?

[Al-Shawwa] I do not believe these problems are being dealt with seriously.

['Allam] Are you setting a certain deadline for this serious approach, after which you would, for example, abandon this designation?

[Al-Shawwa] Before I was assigned to form a municipal council I was head of the Gaza Charity Organization, which has eight institutions serving the people. Whether I abandon or stay in the municipality, I will continue my work in the organization. I will wait for a while before announcing a specific position. I am responsible to my people in Gaza, and I do not wish to abandon my responsibility. But I will give the Palestinian leadership reasonable time to do something.

['Allam] Are you distressed by the leadership's position on Gaza's problems?

[Al-Shawwa] Of course, I feel we are late, and I am distressed because the Palestinian-Israeli agreement does not satisfy 1 percent of our people, because the leadership accepted under the agreement just 1 percent of Palestinian territory and a limited self-rule under a

continued Israeli occupation that has redeployed itself. The truth is that this agreement has been in Israel's interests, because it has relieved it of the "Gaza worry," as they [Israelis] wish to throw Gaza into the sea. [passage omitted]

['Allam] What is the cause of all this?

[Al-Shawwa] Abu-'Ammar chose the members of the self-rule authority, and I hope he will take charge of them, even though some of them are incompetent. Matters are still unclear inside the government department, and people are not able to conduct their business.

Voice of Palestine Radio Station Begins Broadcasting

PBC Director Comments on Radio

TA0407054994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405
GMT 4 Jul 94

[Report on talk with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the director of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation, PBC, by Mikha'el Miro; place and date not given—recorded; Abu-'Ayyash's remarks in English, followed by Miro's translation into Hebrew]

[Text] The Voice of Palestine radio station began broadcasting from Jericho on Saturday [2 July]. We will broadcast like all other regional stations—news, commentary, and talk shows—and will surely keep broadcasting objectively, stated Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the PBC director. Mikha'el Miro tells about the new radio station:

[Begin recording] [Miro] Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, so it seems, is jealous of the radio stations broadcasting in our region. First, it is necessary to surmount the technical difficulties, Abu-'Ayyash said, and then:

[Abu-'Ayyash] You are going to have newscasts, news analyses, local news, programs about education and women, children, all kinds, and talk shows, all kinds of necessary programs that any radio station is doing, and we are trying to do it in a proper way.

[Miro] Still, what will the nature of broadcasts be? Will they be controlled, or will the principle of freedom of the press be observed? The reply is almost expected.

[Abu-'Ayyash] We, you know, we will be very free, open minded. We are talking about a popular station and a public service, that everybody has the right to express himself, to say whatever he likes. We will concentrate on the freedom of the press. We will try to do things in a proper way.

[Miro] Still, we pressed Abu-'Ayyash: Will you level criticism at the self-administration leadership? We will be objective, and criticism will also be leveled, he promised.

[Abu-'Ayyash] We will be very objective. We are not trying to be biased to anybody, although I would say that we are, of course, part of the authority, and we do not hide that we are pro-peace as our political stand, but that does not conflict, does not have any conflict with the freedom of the press and allowing everybody to act as democratic as possible.

[Miro] If this is so, will this principle guide you also in choosing the radio station's employees? Will you employ members of the opposition too, for instance?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I do not care about political affiliation, as long as I believe that this political affiliation does not affect the process of the work.

[Miro] What will happen in the future? The PBC hopes to cooperate with regional radio stations. Its people especially dream of the moment when they can broadcast from a large station located in Ramallah. [end recording]

Official Notes Jibril Use of Frequency

JN0407111094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jul 94 pp 32, 26

[By Kamal Zakarinah]

[Text] Amman—Khalid Mismar, official in charge of Palestinian information, has stated that the Palestinian radio started transmission on 702 kHz the day before yesterday. He added that the transmitters are in Ramallah and were previously controlled by the occupation. He said the radio is now broadcasting from Jericho, and after a short time, it will broadcast from Ramallah as talks are under way on the early transfer of power to the Palestinians.

The radio was heard clearly in Amman and in all the Palestinian areas.

Asked about the distortion in transmission, Mismar said this was due to the fact that another radio station, that of Ahmad Jibril which transmits from Syria, uses the same frequency. This distortion will be eliminated soon when the radio is moved to Ramallah and, perhaps, before that time. The same frequency will continue to be used.

Mismar added that the Palestinian radio's transmission will cover the entire Palestinian land. He said that the PLO is a full member of the Arab States Broadcasting Union, the Broadcasting Organizations of Nonaligned Countries, the Islamic Countries Broadcasting Union, and a member of the European Broadcasting Union.

PFLP's Habash on 'Appropriation' of Frequency

JN0507182594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Fadl Shururu, general supervisor of al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path toward the liberation of land and man, has received a cable from George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Palestine [PFLP], on the 'Arafat authority's appropriation of the al-Quds radio's main frequency. The message reads:

Dear comrade Fadl Shururu, general supervisor of the Palestinian al-Quds Radio. Brother and comrade employees at the al-Quds Radio. Greetings. With extreme anxiousness and suspicion, I and my comrades at the PFLP have learned about the so-called self-rule authority's decision to broadcast on the same frequency as the Palestinian al-Quds Radio. This decision is a practical implementation of an old and constant Zionist demand to jam this radio and prevent it from reaching our Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland.

In his cable to the general supervisor of al-Quds Radio, the PFLP secretary general continues: Absolutely supporting your radio station, I strongly condemn this provocative move, which is considered a serious precedent and a glaring violation of the democracy about which 'Arafat boasts in his addresses to our Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland. It should be noted that this move coincides with 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza and Jericho. As an ardent supporter of democratic principles and values and of the need to work to establish democracy as a course and a practice in the Palestinian society, I appeal to our Palestinian masses in the occupied homeland and the diaspora to speak out against this move and to stress the need to maintain democratic principles, which ensure everyone's right to the freedom of expression and faith without any repressive restrictions or measures by any authority. Our wholehearted support for the Palestinian al-Quds Radio. No to intellectual terrorism. Yes to democracy.

[Signed] Your brother, George Habash, PFLP secretary general

Ambassador in Cairo on Visas, Passport Plans

NC0307130494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Rafah, 3 Jul (MENA)—Palestine's Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has announced that efforts are under way to complete the procedures for Palestinian embassies abroad. Primarily, this is the granting of visas for travel to self-rule areas, the return of the remaining personnel and families, especially those of the police forces and the civilian authority members, and family reunions.

He said in a statement today that the Palestinian passports are almost ready and that technical and procedural issues concerning printing have caused a delay. He noted that the passport, which will be small in size, will bear the phrase "The Palestinian Authority" with the words "passport" and "Travel Document" printed below. He said all citizens in the self-rule areas will use the passport in their travel and that all foreign countries—mainly the United States, European countries, donor nations, and Arab countries—will recognize it. But, he added, it has not been decided to issue the passport to the refugees and the displaced living abroad; this matter will be raised in the next round of negotiations with the Israeli side.

Palestine's embassy in Cairo will begin granting visas for travel to the Palestinian territories starting next week.

Algeria

President Zeroual Independence Day Address

LD0407214094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jul 94

["Address to the nation" by President Liamine Zeroual on the occasion of Algerian Independence Day, in Algiers on 4 July—recorded]

[Text] Citizens: At a time when our country is preparing itself to commemorate the 32d anniversary of the recovery of our independence and national sovereignty, I address our people, urging them to pray for the blessings of God on the souls of the loyal martyrs of the national liberation revolution. These heroes offered what was dearest to them for the sake of freedom. We ought to show gratitude to them every day, and it is our duty to preserve and appreciate this heritage.

The eternal November revolution was made by all the Algerian people. It was a gigantic revolution which transcended men and circumstances. Thus, the spirit of November formed our deeprooted national personality and faith. It mirrored the specific character of our people, who desire to maintain their independence and have been distinguished throughout the ages by their spirit of sacrifice in the face of difficulties. Therefore, the values of November—freedom, dignity, and justice—have not changed and will never change.

On this occasion, when we pray for the blessings of God upon the souls of our loyal martyrs, we cannot but wonder what the causes are that have led our country to the grave crisis that confronts it. In addition to the reasons that I have mentioned on several occasions, we should all admit that this crisis is a logical outcome of deviation from our principles. This deviation nearly drove Algeria to a full collapse. It has led to the sowing of doubt and disappointment and even to an occasional loss of hope by our people. It has led to a split in our ranks even in relation to the entrenched common values of our people, and presented the opportunity for maneuvers and schemes of all sorts, the sole aim of which remains the undermining of Algeria and its people.

We should confess that the exercise of power led to the turning of a blind eye to our principles regarding our daily life; we should also admit that the march of development was characterized by the emergence of some sycophantic phenomena that our people reject. In conclusion, we should confess that our democratic march was also tarnished for the sake of some short-sighted considerations and interests for which our nation is paying a high price today. Innocent citizens are falling daily at the hands of criminals who do not exclude any category of our society and who are committing aggression against all the gains of our country. Not even the tombs of our martyrs have been spared by this destructive madness. All this is due to our having departed from our principles and having lost our self-confidence.

Faced with this situation, each one of us is called upon to question his conscience, and each one of us must decide whether this kind of situation allows for hesitation or calls for taking a partisan stance.

Citizens, men and women: The transitional period which our country is going through is aimed at pulling together the necessary conditions for a return to sovereign choice by the people, a choice that is likely to entrench multiparty democracy, which has become an irreversible reality. Therefore, this phase must be an opportunity for achieving a national leap for the recovery of civil security and peace, and the resurrection of national development.

This leap will have to bring about national reconciliation within the framework of commitment to the principles and values of our people. Without this, democracy and collective and individual freedoms remain hollow slogans.

The state is determined to work relentlessly to put an end to terrorism and violence within the framework of the respect for law and human rights, so as to eradicate these diseases from our society. The state has also embarked, with the same determination and sternness, upon a path aimed at reviving the national economy. In this respect, it will embark upon deep and necessary reforms with a view to liberating our energies and benefiting from our potential. As regards the sacrifices required by these reforms, they will be undertaken while taking into account national solidarity and social justice.

The state has also called the political class to dialogue within the framework of respect for law and rejection of violence. We are totally convinced of the necessity of this dialogue in order to put an end to misunderstanding and to bar the way to maneuvers and conspiracies with a view to closing the nation's ranks. Dialogue is considered as an inescapable phase aimed at entrenching democracy in our country. In this respect, it is my duty to make it clear that Algerian circles that are waiting for a solution from abroad, or suggesting this now and then in their statements, are thus stressing that their aims and interests, which have become known, have nothing in common with the aims and interests of our people.

We are convinced that the solution for Algeria's problems can only be found in Algeria among Algerians. Those who know our country know the high price that we paid for our independence and national sovereignty. They also know very well that the Algerian people and their leaders will never accept that this national sovereignty should be harmed. They are therefore aware that Algeria will not accept any interference in its national affairs.

Today, we renew our call for dialogue; our call goes to all those who believe that Algerians are in fact capable of finding the ideal solution to their problems within the framework of respecting the Constitution and the law and rejecting violence. We hope that this call will find the response that is awaited by the whole nation. In any

case, the people will judge everyone according to their behavior. As for us, the national leap for which we are working has no ulterior motives; it does not seek to serve specific interests. It is, in fact, basically aimed at serving our whole people.

This national leap is aimed, today more than at any other time, at the full and comprehensive recovery of the values of the glorious November revolution. It is also aimed at the consolidation of trust and the reintroduction of harmony between our people and their institutions, in order to protect our country and guide it to the shores of safety.

This leap represents a challenge today for our nation and our young generation particularly. On this occasion, which also represents the national day for our youth, I would especially like to address the young generation of our country, to confirm to it that all the activities of the state are aimed at putting an end to degradation in our country, and to the helplessness and despair that our youth has unjustly been driven to. I therefore call upon our youth to regain hope, of which it is the symbol and which is considered one of its legitimate rights.

It is a message of hope which I address also to the whole nation, a message accompanied by an appeal for redoubling efforts. It is a message of hope because we are on the road to national rectification and to the recovery of glorious Algeria, rich in its real capabilities, strong in its national solidarity, and capable of ensuring the future for all its citizens. At the same time it is a call for redoubling efforts because our endeavor requires the commitment of everyone. It is an endeavor that requires each one of us to be vigilant and aware so as to learn from our experience, particularly our very recent experience.

The Algeria that we are aspiring to, the Algeria that is faithful to its history and its patriotic values, will be the making of all patriotic Algerians. By the strength of our democratic pluralism and the unity of our action we will meet the challenge, God willing.

Glory and immortality to our faithful martyrs. Long live Algeria and peace and God's blessing on you.

FIS Presents 'New Initiative' Via Europeans

PM0507131294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Jul 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Salvation Front Presents to Algerian Authorities Initiative To End Violence and Resolve Crisis"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—A source close to the (dissolved) Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria has told AL-HAYAH that the Front has submitted a new initiative to the authorities via European intermediaries to secure a way out of the crisis that has intensified over recent weeks. The source declined to give any details about the initiative, saying that "most of the initiatives that resolved various world crises have never been

revealed. Results are the most important thing." The source stressed that the Islamic Front "realizes the regime has pushed Algeria into the present situation and is no longer able to resolve the crisis it caused when it canceled the elections and made thousands of arrests.... And the Islamic Front, which the people have chosen twice, shoulders the responsibility before the people. This is why we presented our initiative, which enjoys the approval of all the Front's leaders."

Meanwhile Cheikh Rabeh Kebir, chairman of the Front's Executive Committee abroad, has described the Algerian Government's talk of progress in the dialogue as "designed for external consumption." He added, "the dialogue has been suspended since the ruling authorities violated their agreement with the Front following the meetings held in Bleda Prison with the Front's leaders. This was clear in their preventing Cheikhs Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Ali Djeddi from traveling and imposing restrictions on their movements."

The Algerian authorities released two of the Front's leaders in February. It was said then that the step was the culmination of the dialogue sponsored by President Liamine Zeroual, who participated in some sessions personally with Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj and other detained leaders of the Front. The government later accused the Front's leaders of not fulfilling a pledge to issue a statement renouncing violence—something Djeddi and Boukhamkham denied in a statement.

Rabeh Kebir, who currently lives in Germany, say that "the violence committed by the state has reached a serious and unprecedented level, even compared with France during the liberation war."

He adds that "a group of masked security men opened fire on six people in El Ouidane village, Skikda province, last week."

On the situation inside the Islamic Front in the wake of the tension between it and the Armed Islamic Group, he said that "the organizational situation inside the Front has never been better since it was forced to resort to secret action. The Front, which the people have elected twice, cannot disband or join another group."

Roundup of Violent Incidents in Country

Group Responsible for Murders Killed

LD0207154494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] The security services announced in a statement today the killing of those who carried out the assassination of a Belgian national and his wife last 27 December in (Thamir) municipality, Bouira province, and the Hachimieh massacre against a family of four. The same statement pointed out that the aforementioned group was made up of 10 members, three of whom carried out numerous acts of sabotage.

GIA Claims Algiers Attack

LD0307190894 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 1654 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] The Islamic Armed Group, GIA, claimed Wednesday's [29 June] attack against a demonstration by democrats in Algiers.

In its weekly newsletter EL-ANSAR, the GIA tries to justify the act.

"The bombs went off when hundreds of supporters of secularism, enemies of faith and religion, were passing, when the march led by the leaders of unbelief and apostasy were passing by."

16 'Terrorists' Killed

LD0307190794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Security services today announced that 16 terrorists had been killed through the week ending 1 July throughout the provinces of the homeland.

Security sources added that two of the terrorists were liquidated in Batna, three in Setif, and three in Boumerdes and Tlemcen. Five other terrorists were killed in Ain Defla.

A security services statement said that these operations have been carried out with security services information that also allowed the recovery of arms and other materials.

Souma Group Members Sentenced

LD0507221894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The trial of the Souma armed group, led by Djilali Belkacem, has ended with the sentencing of six defendants to death. Three were sentenced to life imprisonment. Thirteen defendants were given sentences ranging from two to 20 years' imprisonment. Five were acquitted. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Jordan's King Husayn

NC0607103394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Alexandria, 6 Jul (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Alexandria from Jordan at noon today. He was received at al-Nuzhah Airport by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and senior state officials.

President Mubarak accompanied the Jordanian monarch to Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria, where the two leaders are scheduled to hold a round of talks that will continue over a working luncheon.

President Mubarak and the Jordanian king are expected to hold a news conference at the end of their talks in Alexandria today.

Musa Returns From Damascus Declaration States Meeting

NC0607111594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] An Egyptian delegation headed by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Alexandria from Kuwait this morning after participating in the meetings of the Damascus Declaration states' foreign ministers over the past two days. The ministers discussed issues of concern to the Arab nation, notably the developments in Yemen in light of efforts to end the fighting there. The ministers also discussed ways to boost and activate cooperation in the fields mentioned in the Damascus Declaration.

Papers Highlight Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

NC0207062794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—The Cairo newspapers due out tomorrow, Saturday, highlight on their front pages and in their main headlines reports on Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's entry to Gaza for the first time since the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement.

The newspapers AL-AHRAM, AKHBAR AL-YAWM, and AL-JUMHURIYAH described the day as historic. They noted President Husni Mubarak's desire to accompany 'Arafat to the Egyptian border from where he went on to Gaza in a motorcade.

The newspapers published details of the joint news conference President Mubarak and 'Arafat held after their talks in Cairo in which 'Arafat said that the Palestinian people will never forget the committed national stance of Egypt and its leader, President Husni Mubarak.

The newspapers al-JUMHURIYAH and AL-AHRAM stated in their editorials that 'Arafat's wish to visit Cairo and meet President Husni Mubarak before starting the return journey to Palestine constitutes a logical and natural start for the Palestinian return, in view of the huge historic role played by Egypt for Palestine.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM reviewed Egyptian-Palestinian relations throughout history and Egypt's efforts to resolve the issue of Palestine, which preoccupied Egyptian foreign policy on both the Arab and international levels from the Palestine war of 1948 until the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement.

The newspaper said that 'Arafat's return to Gaza after meeting President Mubarak in Cairo opens a new chapter in Egyptian-Palestinian relations of participation to build the new state.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stated that Cairo, led by President Husni Mubarak, will always be the key to the door leading to the homeland. It is also the key to peace and negotiations just as it was the key to war and victory for all the Arabs.

The newspaper said that 'Arafat's trip to Gaza and Jericho is considered the beginning of a long Palestinian road on which the revolution will be transformed into a national entity acknowledged by the whole world. But this trip would not have been possible without Egypt and the gigantic efforts made by President Husni Mubarak in both the Arab and international fields to strengthen the peace process in the Middle East.

The newspaper added that 'Arafat did not come to Cairo only to express his appreciation for and gratitude to Egypt and its leader. He came because he wanted to maintain Egypt's leading role in the process of a permanent and comprehensive peace, in particular on the Palestinian course.

Algeria's Dembri, Sifi Confer With Officials

Musa Meets With Dembri

NC0207102394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT
2 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met Algerian Foreign Minister Salah Dembri today.

Musa said they discussed topics concerning Egyptian-Algerian relations, the Arab world, African issues, and developments in Yemen in light of Egypt's efforts to stop the fighting and begin a dialogue.

He added that the Algerian foreign minister explained the outcome of the Arab Maghreb Union countries' recent meetings and that they exchanged views on the agenda of the Damascus Declaration countries' meeting due in Kuwait on Tuesday.

Dembri on Situation in Algeria

NC0307193694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT
3 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 3 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met here today with his Algerian counterpart Mohamed Salah Dembri. Speaking after the meeting, Dembri said that he had discussed with Musa the various topics to be discussed during the forum of Mediterranean countries to be held later tonight. [passage omitted]

Concerning the current domestic situation in Algeria, Dembri said that the situation is improving noticeably. He added: We have now entered with determination the three-year transitional period. He pointed out that the Algerian national covenant is now in the process of materializing, noting that although some terrorist operations still exist, all this will be gone soon. He stressed

that Algeria needs the efforts of all its people, and those who engage in violence and terrorism will distance themselves from the national framework.

Sidqi, Sifi Begin Talks

NC0207105694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, who is visiting Cairo, began a round of official talks at the prime minister's office today. They are discussing ways to boost bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Further on Sidqi-Sifi Talks

LD0207132894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Plenary talks were held in Cairo this morning between Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi after talks between the two countries' respective ministers had taken place on the means for bolstering cooperation in all spheres. More details with Rachid Benhmimid:

The first meeting took place at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry this morning. It brought together Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa. The Egyptian foreign minister stated after the meeting that he had talks with his Algerian colleagues on the two countries' relations and Arab and African topics, particularly the development of the Yemen situation. The Egyptian official added that he had examined with Mr. Dembri the outcome of the recent Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers' meetings and other topics on the agenda on the foreign ministers' meeting of signatory countries of the Damascus Declaration, due to take place in Kuwait next Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Press Statement Issued on Visit

NC0207131494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT
2 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—A press statement issued today following talks between Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi said the two sides reviewed Arab, regional, and international issues. The talks revealed identical views on all the issues discussed.

The two sides emphasized the importance of consultation and coordination between them on every level and in every domain. They expressed satisfaction at the positive steps taken toward consolidating fruitful bilateral cooperation in implementing the instructions of Presidents Husni Mubarak and Liamine Zeroual.

The statement noted that the Egyptian and Algerian sides agreed to hold a new session of the Joint Higher Committee between the two countries in the middle of October in Algiers.

Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi invited Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to visit Algeria. Dr. Sidqi accepted and the date for the visit will be agreed by diplomatic channels.

The statement said the ministers accompanying Sifi held bilateral meetings with their Egyptian opposite numbers and reviewed with them aspects of cooperation in various fields.

The statement noted that President Mubarak received Sifi, who handed him a message from Algerian President Liamine Zeroual.

The statement explained that the Algerian delegation's visit to Cairo came within the context of the fraternal relations and historic ties between Egypt and Algeria and embodied the desire of Presidents Mubarak and Zeroual to consolidate their already strong bilateral relations.

Sifi Holds News Conference

NC0207204594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT
2 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jul (MENA)—Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi has thanked Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the government, and people for the warm welcome he and his accompanying delegation were accorded.

In a press conference he held this evening at his residence in al-Tahirah Palace in Cairo, Sifi said that his talks with the Egyptian officials had been fruitful and constructive. The talks, he added, had dealt with coordinating the efforts of the two countries in issues of common interest. Sifi confirmed that coordination exists between Egypt and Algeria to curb terrorism, adding that Algeria maintains contacts with other Arab countries in this regard. He called for stepping up this coordination to curtail the terrorist operations. He emphasized that Algeria had suffered much from terrorism but noted that the Algerian Government is ready for dialogue with the political forces that denounce violence and that are committed to defending freedom of expression in Algeria. He added that the Algerian government is determined to relentlessly confront elements that seek to destroy Algeria and terrorize its citizens.

The Algerian prime minister strongly denounced attempts to mix up between the real values of Islam and acts of violence and terrorism undertaken by some quarters outside Algeria. He emphasized that the Algerian people were and still are Muslims who adhere to their religion and reject barbarian acts done in the name of Islam.

Reviewing the internal situation in Algeria, Sifi stressed his government's commitment to the results of the national dialogue conference, reconciling the legitimate political forces during the next three years, and helping state and partisan institutions and trade unions to become forums for consultation and dialogue. Sifi

addressed a message to the "Arab brothers" dealing with political, economic, security, and international relations issues.

In the political domain, Sifi reiterated the Algerian Government's commitment to hold a dialogue with all parties that renounce violence and abide by the laws. He noted that 30 Algerian parties have committed themselves to these principles, but some are reluctant to follow suit and some others keep silent.

On the economic level, Sifi pointed out that while Algeria adopts a free market economy, it seeks to avoid the negative impact this system could have on the social life in the country. He noted that the Algerian Government has taken a number of measures in the economic and social domains. In this regard, 600,000 houses that were unfinished because of a shortage of building materials have been completed and \$400 millions from the European Bank, the World Bank, and the Saudi Fund have been earmarked for construction, he added. Sifi added: We have given special attention to agriculture, small and medium industries, railway, and improvement of agricultural land.

On Algeria's international relations, the Algerian prime minister said his country fully realizes the new international balances and is confident that some Arab countries, especially Egypt, can cooperate with Algeria to form an economic entity to face international blocs.

He stressed that Algeria's security is an integral part of the Arab Maghreb security. Anything that harms Algeria affects its neighbors and partners, and it is not in any party's interest that instability continue in Algeria for a long time or that an authority conflicting with Algeria's religious principles, culture, traditions, and human rights emerge in the country, he said.

Answering a question posed by MENA, Sifi denied foreign pressure to hold dialogue with the extremist groups in Algeria.

He said U.S. President Bill Clinton's statements in this regard condemned violence and supported dialogue, which meant support for the efforts of the Algerian Government. This position is identical to that of a number of other countries, including France, he said.

Sifi strongly denied that any undeclared dialogue is being held between the government and the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FSN]. He noted splits with the FSN and said some of its factions reject violence.

Sifi stressed that the current crisis in Algeria is a temporary economic and social one, not a crisis between two trends or parties.

He said certain foreign parties helped and are still helping the tension to continue.

Those foreign forces, he said, provided the terrorists in Algeria with weapons, which drove the government to

hold contacts with the fraternal neighboring countries so that the joint border may not be used for supplying the terrorists with weapons.

Sifi expected the upcoming elections in Algeria to be held in better objective circumstances, which will make them free and fair, reflecting the aspirations of the Algerian people. He said the previous elections which the FSN won were held in chaotic and frenzied circumstances.

Asked by a MENA correspondent about the difficulties facing the Arab Maghreb Union, the Algerian prime minister said although this is the sixth year after the declaration of the union, and despite some difficulties, there were achievements and progress. As examples, he pointed to the signing of 30 agreements to organize relations between the member states in the various fields and to the establishment of joint institutions such as the union's general secretariat, the Maghreb Bank, judicial and academic agencies, and the consultative council. He hoped that major economic projects among the union's states would be launched in the future.

Sifi denied any conflict between Algeria and the UN resolutions concerning the Western Sahara problem. He said Algeria supports the resolutions of the Security Council and the OAU. The conflict, he explained, concerns procedures and implementation, and this requires dialogue between the two concerned parties.

Members of the delegation accompanying the Algerian prime minister attended the press conference.

Sifi Departs Cairo

NC0307114294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1121 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi left Cairo this afternoon after a three-day visit to Egypt during which he delivered a message from Algerian President Liamine Zeroual to President Hosni Mubarak.

During the visit, he held talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi over ways of promoting and coordinating bilateral ties. The ministers accompanying him discussed cooperation with their Egyptian counterparts.

Sifi was accompanied on the visit by the Algerian foreign, industry, construction, and finance ministers.

Syria's al-Zu'bi Arrives for Committee Meetings

NC0507105494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi arrived in Cairo with his delegation this morning from Damascus on a visit to Egypt of several days. During this visit, al-Zu'bi will chair his country's delegation to the seventh round of the

Joint Egyptian-Syrian Higher Committee meetings, which will start today chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and ministers received him at the airport.

Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi stated upon arrival that the meetings will discuss means of joint cooperation and coordination and evaluate what has been achieved in the various fields after recently achieving some good results, especially in the fields of economy, trade, transport, electricity, and telephones.

He also said they will discuss the participation of companies from the two countries in implementing and establishing joint projects that will serve the interests of the two fraternal countries.

Engineer al-Zu'bi expressed his hope that the meetings will achieve positive results and open up new horizons for cooperation as well as raise the standing of joint cooperation under the patronage of Presidents Hosni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad.

He also expressed his deep gratitude for the fraternal and warm welcome he was given. He stressed the importance of fraternal bilateral ties.

Sidqi, al-Zu'bi Chair Session

JN0607092594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] The Higher Joint Syrian-Egyptian Committee began its meetings in Cairo this evening as part of its current session by holding an expanded meeting under the cochairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

This round of talks was attended on the Syrian side by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Nadim 'Akkash, minister of supply and internal trade; Tourism Minister Muhammad Amin Abu-al-Shamat; Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs; Communications Minister Engineer Muhammad Radwan Martini; Transportation Minister Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim; and Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador in Cairo.

For Egypt, the talks were attended by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Electricity Minister Engineer Mahir Abazah; Transport Minister Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli; Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'al-Din; Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi; Tourism Minister Mamduh al-Biltaji; Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud; minister of economy and foreign trade; Health Minister Dr. 'Ali

'Abd-al-Fattah; Justice Minister Ahmad Radwan; and Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi delivered a speech at this meeting. He thanked Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi for his welcoming speech, which reviewed Egyptian-Syrian ties and contained a host of important ideas. He added: The strong ties between Damascus and Cairo have offset the distances between the two capitals. Thus, the responsibilities we are shouldering stem from mutual sentiments nurtured by one and the same people in the two countries. This lends harmony to the march of cooperation, coordination, and integration between the two countries.

The prime minister went on to say: Therefore, it is only natural for our Higher Joint Committee to continue its work and meetings, and for our decisions and measures to be interconnected, regardless of whether they are taken by the highest administrative echelon or lower echelons. We must make efforts to promote the existing cooperation with further moves. Useful decisions must be followed by more useful decisions. Our prime concern is to overcome difficulties, and leave them behind us. This successful march, whose firm foundations were laid by the two countries' leaders, Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, possesses the necessary momentum, thanks to the instructions they have issued.

The prime minister said: I am certain that we have the determination, resolve, and clear vision that will enable us to evaluate our previous moves, and accurately identify the efforts we need to make. We are confident that the desire and the will that we possess, in addition to the wise instructions of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, will constantly prompt us to promote our ties, especially since the current regional developments require us to demonstrate vigilance and watchfulness regarding Israel's intentions toward the peace process. These developments require the frontline states in particular, and the Arab states in general, to achieve a more effective solidarity, and come up with a more cohesive and forceful stand.

The prime minister noted that Israel has, since the convocation of the Madrid conference, has failed to subscribe to international legitimacy, and to commit itself to compliance with the relevant UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, as manifested in its conduct during the Washington talks.

The prime minister said Syria has, from the outset, responded favorably to the international community's calls for peace. Syria, along with the Arabs, agreed to take part in peace talks on the basis of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. He affirmed Syria's strong eagerness to achieve just and comprehensive peace, and to continue the talks. He also underscored Syria's firm adherence to the principle of complete withdrawal in return for full and comprehensive peace.

He said cooperation between Egypt and Syria, which constitute a strong, cohesive, and forceful Arab nucleus, will promote their standing. Likewise, their cooperation and integration will promote their pan-Arab roles. The march of integration between the two countries will become an example to be emulated by the other Arab states. While meeting today, we, thanks to the wise and sound directives issued by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, are promoting bilateral cooperation and coordination. We are required to follow up on the accomplishments that we have made, and to make arrangements for further accomplishments.

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi had spoken at the outset of the meeting. He began by welcoming Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation. He wished success for the meetings of this session of the Higher Joint Syrian-Egyptian Committee. He noted that many positive aspects in bilateral ties have been seen, and that efforts to promote these ties must continue to be made.

Dr. Sidqi added: The relationship between Egypt and Syria is a pioneering experience in cooperation and coordination that should be consummated to achieve the desired unity and integration.

Dr. Sidqi touched on the regional peace process, and reiterated Egypt's support for Syria in its efforts to regain the Golan territory. He said Egypt supports Syria's sacred right to regain the occupied Golan. He added: Syria and Egypt, under leaders Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, are fully agreed on the need to further promote the special ties between them.

The Egyptian prime minister underscored Egypt's concept of a just, comprehensive, and full peace by saying: The goal of achieving a just and comprehensive peace will remain elusive as long as there is an inch of Arab territory, particularly in the Golan, Lebanon, or Jordan, under occupation. We are in full agreement on this issue. For we have a common goal with regard to the issue of Middle East peace.

Afterward, the Syrian and Egyptian sides reviewed the topics listed on the agenda of the Higher Joint Committee, and the reports submitted by the joint preparatory committee.

The two sides will resume their meetings tomorrow to continue their discussion of the reports submitted to the higher committee.

Sidqi Comments on First Session

NC0507205494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT
5 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—At the end of the first session of talks of the Joint Higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said the conferees had discussed aspects of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and exchanged views on the Middle East peace. He said that the two

sides were in agreement on the issues. Sidqi added that the Joint Committee will hold its next session tomorrow evening, Wednesday.

Economy Minister Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud said the two sides agreed to encourage the two countries' private sectors and businessmen to conclude joint trade deals and promote trade exchanges and joint projects.

Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation affairs, said the two sides showed satisfaction with the accomplishments and agreements achieved, and he asserted the need to promote trade and technical exchanges in all fields. He added that the two sides called for focusing on measures to resolve problems and provide a mechanism to increase their dealings.

Egypt's Ambassador in Damascus Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz said the targeted volume of trade between the two countries is \$60 million.

Al-Zu'bi To Meet With Mubarak

NC0507191494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak will receive Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi tomorrow morning. The Syrian guest arrived in Cairo earlier today on a visit of several days to attend the meetings of the joint higher Egyptian-Syrian committee.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi held a round of bilateral talks with al-Zu'bi at the latter's place of residence this afternoon. The meeting was attended by members of the Syrian delegation and a number of Egyptian ministers participating in the committee's meeting.

The two sides assessed in principle the committee's work and the scope for joint bilateral cooperation. They also reviewed the overall Arab and international situations, especially the progress achieved on the Arab-Israeli peace tracks.

The meetings of the seventh session of the joint higher Egyptian-Syrian committee began tonight at the cabinet premises under the chairmanship of Dr. Sidqi and Eng. al-Zu'bi. The committee is following up the implementation of the economic, trade, and technical cooperation agreements and will discuss joint projects to be undertaken by Egyptian and Syrian companies in both countries.

Al-Zu'bi Comments After Meeting Mubarak

NC0607102194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Syrian Prime Minister Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi at Ra's al-Tin Palace this morning. Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi attended the meeting.

[In a related report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0950 GMT on 6 July adds the following: "Syrian Prime

Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi said after the expanded talks between the Egyptian and Syrian delegations chaired by President Mubarak that discussions dealt with bilateral relations and the activity of the joint committee between the two countries.

["On the peace process, Engineer al-Zu'bi said: We discussed every issue of mutual concern, the situation in the region, and the peace process.

["On the possibility of a summit meeting soon between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad, al-Zu'bi said President Mubarak expressed the hope that he might visit Syria at the right time, and soon.

["Asked if the situation in Yemen was discussed at the expanded meeting, the Syrian prime minister said the subject was raised. It was stressed, he said, that what is important now is achieving a cease-fire, ending the war, and launching a dialogue between the parties to the conflict in Yemen."]

'Terrorist' Killed in Asyut Governorate

NC0407050594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—Terrorist Ahmad 'Abd-al-Maqsud Ahmad Marzuq was killed today when he resisted the security forces when they tried to arrest him in a house in Markaz Abnub, Asyut governorate, Upper Egypt.

A responsible security source said that following a tip off received by the security forces that terrorist Ahmad 'Abd-al-Maqsud Ahmad Marzuq, wanted in Abnub criminal case No. 2651 for the year 1993, in which citizen Khalid Yahya Tufilis was killed, was visiting a house in Markaz Abnub, a force from the Asyut security directorate, the state security Intelligence Service, and the Central Security Forces raided the aforementioned house at around 1500 today.

The source added that as the terrorist was being captured, he fired his pistol at the security forces, who opened fire and killed him. A Hulwan 9J pistol with three bullets in its magazine and a fourth in the chamber, a small box containing 16 bullets of the same caliber, and an identity card bearing the name of Mahmud Muhammad 'Uthman with the dead terrorist's photograph on it were found on him.

The source said that the security forces are intensifying their pursuit of fugitive terrorist elements in order to capture and try them.

Prosecutor Remands 18 'Terrorists' to Security Court

NC0507190394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1631 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—The public prosecutor, counselor Raja' al-'Arabi, today ordered that 18 terrorists be remanded to the Higher State Security Court for

trial on charges of committing several murders, attempted murder, possession of unlicensed weapons, attacks on many policemen and citizens [words indistinct].

The prosecution pressed several charges against the suspects, including the joining of a group whose objective is to advocate the annulment of the constitution and the law, prevent public authorities from exercising their duties, and compromising national unity and social peace. The group had advocated that the regime be regarded as atheistic and decreed that revolting against the regime and killing security officials and people of various sects was permissible. Terrorism with the use of force and violence was one of the ways to achieve these goals to cause disorder and endanger social peace and security.

The Prosecution charged the suspects with gathering and causing disturbances outside Nur-al-Iman Mosque in al-Suways and with attacking security officers with fire-arms and sharpened-edged weapons. The attacks resulted in the death of Police Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Hasan 'Abd-al-Shafi and the wounding of the force commander Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Hamid Isma'il and Private Nash'at 'Abd-al-Hamid Farhat when defendant Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir Bakri shot at them.

The Prosecution explained that when caught the suspects were in possession of documents and leaflets propagating the terrorist group's aims.

The Prosecution charged some of the suspects with the premeditated murder of Fransiscan School Headmaster Fakhri Sergius when defendant Sayyid Sabir Sayyid stabbed him in the neck several times, killing him instantly.

The Prosecution also charged the suspects with several counts of forging official documents.

Sudan

Al-Ummah's al-Mahdi Released From Detention

NC0307193894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1817 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jul (MENA)—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Sudanese al-Ummah Party and former prime minister, was released today, the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY reported this evening.

The Sudanese authorities had arrested al-Mahdi and a number of al-Ummah Party leaders a week ago [as received].

Abu-Salih on al-Mahdi Statement

EA0607060694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih stated that the formation of an election commission is as an important event in the history of the country. He told those assembled at the Foreign Ministry's information briefing today that this event was deemed to be a prominent landmark in the process of democratic transformation, and a positive step toward handing over power to the people. [passage omitted]

On the media statement of Mr. al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, regarding the recent conspiracy, Dr. Abu-Salih explained that this had centered on two important issues. The first was that the statement made it clear that, whatever political disagreements exist, they should not be solved by violence. The second was that the statement revealed that, despite the political [word indistinct] difference, that should not be a pretext for cooperation with any (?organs) against the country's sovereignty.

His Excellency Ambassador Dr. Anwar al-Hadi, director of the political department at the Foreign Ministry, reviewed the joint communique between Sudan and Azerbaijan, and he explained that the Azeri delegation acquainted itself with efforts being exerted by the revolution to remold Sudanese society on the basis of the civilisational orientation, in order to achieve development and self-reliance. He also reviewed initiatives for achieving peace and development in the south. [passage omitted]

Yemeni Parliamentarian Delegation Visits

Khalifah Receives Delegation

EA0407211094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1640 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jul (SUNA)—Transitional National Assembly (TNA) speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah received Sunday [3 July] the visiting Yemeni parliamentary delegation headed by Yahya Mansur Abu-Salih, member of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party. Khalifah has got acquainted with the latest developments of the situation in Yemen and the efforts exerted to stop the war there.

The delegation assured the Sudanese of keenness on Yemeni unity and returning to dialogue to contain the crisis. The delegation also hailed the stance of Sudan towards Arab solidarity and preserving Arab nation energy for facing challenges. A message was received by Khalifah from his counterpart, conveyed by the delegation.

Meanwhile the two sides have held joint talks on parliamentary relations between the two countries and issue of mutual concern.

Yemenis Hold News Conference

EA0507212494 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] A visiting Yemeni parliamentary delegation, headed by Mr. Yahya Mansur, a member of the central committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, held a press conference at the National Assembly buildings. Mr. Mansur reviewed the situation in Yemen and the latest developments, stressing that the majority of Yemeni people stand with the Yemeni unity and legitimacy, adding that a small section of the socialist party seeks to separate by force. He maintained that the separatists have failed in gaining the consent of the central committee of their secessionist plots.

National Assembly Supports 'Unity'

EA0507212994 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly has issued a statement reaffirming Sudan's firm and principled stand in support of Yemeni unity and constitutional legality, built by the brotherly Yemeni people in their wisdom and patience through free choice, referendum, and honest elections. The assembly expressed its rejection of a return to division and partition, and attempts to impose secession by force. The statement affirmed the assembly's eagerness to spare the blood of the sons of Yemen, and to halt the infighting. It called for negotiations (?between the brothers) to contain the crisis. The statement warned of the consequences of prolonging the war, which would serve those who are striving for dissension in order to destroy the capabilities of brotherly Yemen.

Yemen

Battle Situation in Aden, al-Mukalla Reported

Aden Situation 'Has Not Changed'

LD0507112094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1014 GMT
5 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 Jul (KUNA)—A Yemeni source in the south said he has not see any northern troops inside Aden today.

In a telephone contact made by KUNA with Aden Hotel, a hotel resident said he has not noticed any unusual movements inside the city and that he has not seen any northern troops entering Aden.

The source said that the situation in Aden has not changed during the last few days and that the shelling is continuing. [passage omitted]

News agencies today, quoting northern military sources, have reported the news of the fall of Aden airport to northern troops after they entered the city.

'Source' Denies Northern Troops in Aden

LD0507122594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1139 GMT
5 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, 5 Jul (KUNA)—A responsible southern military source in Aden strongly denied reports being carried by some news agencies today that northern troops have entered Aden and that battles with machine guns can be heard in Khormaksar. The source told KUNA that Aden "has not and will not be penetrated," pointing out that the defenses around the city are strong.

The source indicated that five northern tanks managed to penetrate Dar Sa'd area, on the outskirts of Aden, and fired dozens of rockets on the city, causing a large number of casualties. The source added that the southern troops managed at 1430 to destroy the northern tanks and bring the situation under control.

Since this morning, Aden has been subjected to the most intense northern shelling so far. The shelling has reached all areas of the city, including Aden Hotel, where foreign reporters and representatives of the Red Cross and Medecins Sans Frontieres are staying.

North Said Defeated in Aden Outskirts

LD0507180894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1649 GMT
5 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, 5 Jul (KUNA)—It has been announced here that the forces of south Yemen were able at about 1900 this evening "to defeat the northern forces which attempted to infiltrate the outskirts of Aden from the north in the Dar Sa'd area."

A communique released by the Defense Ministry in Aden said: "Six northern tanks and two mobile Katyusha rocket launchers had infiltrated by noon today as far as the outskirts of Aden and subjected the Khormaksar area where the airport, the hospital, and the Aden Hotel are situated to a shower of rockets which caused great human losses."

A KUNA correspondent reports: "The Khormaksar area has lived through the last five hours in a state of terror as a result of the intensive rocket attack." He added that calm returned to "the area at 1900 this evening although the residents of the area were still in a state of terror, fearing a renewal of the northern attack."

North Yemen announced earlier today that Aden airport and al-Riyan airport in al-Mukalla had fallen into the hands of the northern forces. South Yemen has, however, denied these reports.

Aden Source Says Northern Advance Continuing

NC0507192594 Cairo MENA in English 1905 GMT 5
Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Southern Yemeni forces have destroyed nine tanks, two armored vehicles and two armored personnel carriers of the northern troops, an official Yemeni military official source in Aden said.

The source, in statements faxed to MENA this evening, revealed, however, that the northern forces are continuing their advances on Aden and are mounting attacks on all fronts.

The northern troops are shelling residential areas in Aden with rockets and artillery, the source added.

Ministry Appeals To Aden Troops To Join North

JN0607052694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 0345 GMT 6 Jul 94

["Call from the Defense Ministry"; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Now that decisive military defeat has been inflicted, along all the combat axes, against the gang of rebellion and secession; now that our Armed Forces, the forces defending unity and constitutional legitimacy, have cleansed the important districts of Hadhramaut Governorate of rebel dens, and control al-Mukalla, the capital of Hadhramaut; and out of concern for the safety of citizens and officers, non-commissioned officers [NCO's], and soldiers in the deceived, coerced forces, the Defense Ministry urges the deceived officers, NCO's, and soldiers who remain in Aden to quickly join their brothers in the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy. This will guarantee for them all their rights and duties on an equal footing with all their colleagues. This is especially the case now that positions have become defined. They have the opportunity to move from the

neighborhoods in which they are deployed, and in which the rebels are using them and innocent brother civilians as barricades.

With confidence that they will heed the call, and based on the understanding that a clear conscience is a blessing in all difficult times in order to take advantage of a precious opportunity to throw off the shackles and repressive pressures, the Defense Ministry is making this appeal under these very important circumstances.

After this appeal, every rebel against constitutional legitimacy will reap only sorry. We stress that loyalty to Yemeni unity will remain nobler and more sacred than all selfish loyalty and short-lived, selfish individualistic interests. This appeal must be considered another path to repentance and the use of logic. It must also be considered a victory for the deceived ones over themselves first, and against the tyranny of the forces of apostasy and secession. This is a very easy thing to achieve at these decisive moments.

North Confirms Fall of Airport, Air Base

JN0607075894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] A responsible source has said rebel elements continued their attacks yesterday on the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy and the citizens. These elements used heavy artillery to shell our forces' positions and attempted to besiege and attack our units in Dar Sa'd. Therefore, our Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy, had to resolutely confront them. Our forces managed to take full control of Aden Airport and the Badr air base, which the rebels have used continuously to launch their aggressive air raids on innocent civilians, vital economic installations, and our Armed Forces' positions.

On the Hadhramaut axis, our Armed Forces confronted similar criminal acts by the rebels. A number of planes still in the possession of the rebels launched aggressive air raids on our Armed Forces units and citizens in the city of al-Mukalla. In an attempt to silence the source of the repeated attacks and abort the aggressive war machine, which the rebels were using out of al-Riyan airport, our Armed Forces, in cooperation with the citizens, managed to seize the airport and deprive the rebels of the chance to use it to launch their aggressive air raids against innocent citizens and vital, strategic installations, which belong to the Yemeni people and are the fruit of their efforts and sweat.

The source reiterated its appeal to all those who were deceived by the rebels and who fell victim to the conspiracies and intrigues to appeal to their conscience and fear God in what inflicts harm on innocent civilians, due to their siding with the reckless and alien elements, who harbor a grudge against the great unionist and democratic accomplishments of our Yemeni people.

The source said orders were issued to the forces of constitutional legitimacy to exercise the maximum degree of military discipline and sincere brotherly behavior toward all those who turn themselves into legitimacy and to provide them with good care and treat them well.

Northern Forces Continue to Pound Aden

LD0607085794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0816 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Aden, 6 Jul (KUNA)—KUNA's correspondent in Aden reports that the aggressor northern forces continued their intense random shelling of several areas of Aden this morning. He adds that the shells of aggression this morning hit for the third time the Aden Hotel which is the residence of foreign journalists, the International Red Cross, and Medecins Sans Frontieres.

The northern shelling hit homes in the Khur Makthar and al-Tawahi areas, and caused considerable human losses. Preliminary counts put these losses at 20 dead and 30 wounded since the morning. KUNA's correspondent says that all the Aden population urges the Damascus Declaration eight member states to hasten and rescue them from the northern aggression against them, and to recognize their republic which was declared last May. They affirm that there will be no surrender whatever sacrifices there might be.

INA Reports Northern Control of Aden

JN0607143894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 6 Jul (INA)—The secessionists' remaining naval vessels have retreated to the high seas after the legitimate Yemeni forces took control of significant parts of Aden, including Khormaksar, Aden Airport, and the Badr air base.

An INA correspondent in Sanaa has cited Yemeni military sources inside Aden as saying that at midnight last night, several warships belonging to the secessionists retreated to the high seas after they were rendered ineffective in the waters surrounding Aden.

Earlier today, reports said that large numbers of infantry troops belonging to the legitimate forces entered the Crater, al-Tawahi, and al-Mu'alla districts in greater Aden, which constitutes the eastern part of Aden and overlooks the Shamsan mountain overlooking the sea.

The sources said that the defenses which had been positioned by the secessionists in houses in the Khormaksar area were silenced. Aden Airport, which is located in the northern part of this area, had been brought under control. Meanwhile, the two sides have been exchanging intensive fire in most districts of greater Aden and the al-Tawahi Port in Aden.

The legitimate Yemeni forces yesterday completed the removal of remaining defenses in the Salah-al-Din Camp in the al-Burayqah area, of which the legitimate forces recently took control.

In another development, the legitimate Yemeni forces advanced on the Hadhramaut axis today toward Saywun city in central Hadhramaut to chase the remaining units of two incomplete brigades, one of which is the secessionists' Taysir Brigade.

Over the past two days, the Yemeni Armed Forces seized large quantities of equipment belonging to the secessionists, including about 15 Sukhoi and MiG planes left by the secessionists in the al-Riyan airport, east of al-Mukalla, and Aden Airport.

The legitimate forces also seized a number of self-propelled guns and various armored vehicles constituting part of the equipment of the so-called "Salvation Army," which is financed by the Saudi regime to fight on the side of the secessionists.

An official Yemeni source announced on 4 July that groups from the aforementioned army have surrendered. Part of this army had entered al-Mukalla, while the rest were kept in the al-'Abr area on the Saudi border.

Al-Bid Reportedly in al-Mukalla

PM0507105894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham, Jalal al-Mashtah, and Iqbal 'Abdallah: "Aden Denies Capture of al-Mukalla; Russia Willing To Send Observers"]

[Excerpts] New York, Moscow, Aden—[North] Yemeni Planning Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani confirmed to AL-HAYAH yesterday the capture of al-Mukalla city, capital of Hadhramaut and in which 'Ali Salim al-Bid, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Democratic Republic of Yemen and secretary general of the Socialist party, is currently present. But a south Yemen military spokesman has conclusively denied this [the capture], saying that this information, which has also been released by a high-level Defense Ministry official in Sanaa, "is part of the psychological war" launched by the north. [passage omitted]

In Moscow, AL-HAYAH has learned that Russia is currently considering sending 70-150 military observers to Yemen and making contacts to hold another round of talks between the two sides regarding the implementation of the cease-fire signed in Moscow last week. A well-informed Russian source has warned of the participation of mercenary pilots in the fighting. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports Al-Bid's Whereabouts Unknown

NC0507144594 Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 5 Jul 94

[By Jean-Herve Deiller]

[Text] Aden, Yemen, July 5 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni forces fought their way into Aden on Tuesday [5 July] and an independent source here said they captured the port of al-Mukalla, where southern leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid is based.

Three civilians were killed and 53 wounded, including two French aid workers, as the north advanced into the Khormaksar neighborhood near Aden airport, three kilometers (two miles) from the city center, hospital officials said.

Two northern tanks were destroyed as rival forces fought near the airport, a southern military official told AFP. There were also machinegun and rocket battles.

A northern military spokesman in Sanaa said his forces had seized control of the airport, Khormaksar, and the dyke linking the city with the oil refinery suburb of Little Aden.

The military spokesman said: "Government forces are at the entrance of the old city and the Ma'allah district and al-Tawahi port area," which he said "will fall to the forces of legality in the next few hours."

Al-Bid's forces meanwhile retreated from along Aden's coastal road, an AFP correspondent observed.

Shells also rained onto the city with at least two slamming into Hotel Aden where international aid workers and journalists were staying. Two workers with French humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres were wounded, one seriously, and taken to the city's Al-Jumhuriyah Hospital.

Hospital officials said three people were killed and an additional 51 wounded, including many children.

Pleas for an immediate ceasefire were issued by the Japanese government in Tokyo and eight key Arab countries meeting in Kuwait City to discuss the civil war in Yemen.

The offensive took place after the heaviest northern bombardment of the war killed 41 people and wounded 231 others in Aden on Monday, hospital officials said.

An independent source who requested anonymity also said northern troops had captured the city of al-Mukalla, 700 kilometers (434 miles) along the coast east of Aden.

Al-Mukalla, the second largest city in the south, "has fallen into the hands of northern forces," said the source, who had radio contact with the city. There was no word on al-Bid's location.

A northern military leader said Monday northern forces had entered the port city, which is the capital of the Hadhramaut province. Southern officials denied it.

Former vice president al-Bid took shelter in al-Mukalla soon after war broke out on May 5 following a nine-month dispute about running Yemen, created when the former Marxist South and tribal North Yemen were merged in May 1990.

Al-Bid declared a separate southern state two weeks later but Salih has vowed to crush the "rebellion" and branded his southern rival a "traitor."

Sanaa Radio said earlier Tuesday that northern forces had taken full control of al-Mukalla on Monday and were only a "few kilometers" from the "rebel-held" airport at (Riyhan), 35 kilometres (22 miles) east of al-Mukalla.

The north "also seized a large number of mercenaries and officers and soldiers" sent from abroad to "fragment" the country, the radio said.

Northern forces also shot down a Soviet-built Sukhoi plane which crashed in flames near al-Mukalla beach, it said, according to BBC monitoring.

A southern military spokesman said Sunday that fierce clashes took place in the Hadhramaut region during the evening. But Aden authorities denied a report Monday that Sanaa forces had taken al-Mukalla.

Monday's bombardment of Aden was the worst since war began.

The casualties brought to 524 the number of civilians killed in Aden since daily bombardments began on June 11, with more than 1,656 wounded, according to an AFP toll based on hospital figures.

Al-Bid Said in Charge of al-Mukalla Defense

NC0507174494 Paris AFP in English 1601 GMT 5 Jul 94

[By Jean-Herve Deiller]

[Excerpts] Aden, Yemen, July 5 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni forces thrust into Aden on Tuesday [5 July] and said they also captured both the city and airport of al-Mukalla in fierce battles that included hand-to-hand fighting.

Three civilians and 53 others were wounded in shelling that accompanied the northern advance to within three kilometers (two miles) of the center of Aden, hospital officials said.

Forces loyal to Yemen's northern President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih fought tank, rocket and machinegun battles with southern troops in the Khormaksar district next to Aden airport, a southern official said.

A northern army spokesman in Sanaa said his forces had seized control of the airport and the adjoining neighborhood.

Forces of Salih's former vice president and southern rival, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, were seen meanwhile to have retreated from along Aden's coastal road.

In Sanaa, a government spokesman said northern forces captured the airport in al-Mukalla, 700 kilometers (434 miles) east of here where al-Bid has been based since shortly after war broke out on May 5.

"Government forces took control of the airport in al-Riyan following violent fighting during which machine-guns and knives were used," the spokesman said.

But a Gulf diplomat in radio contact with al-Mukalla said the airport continued to function as normal, and added that al-Bid had taken charge of the military operation to defend the city.

Sanaa Radio said earlier that northern forces had taken full control of the city of al-Mukalla, and were heading toward the military airport 15 kilometers (nine miles) away.

Al-Mukalla "has fallen into the hands of northern forces" according to an independent source in Aden who had radio contact with the city but who asked not be identified. [passage omitted]

In Kuwait City, foreign ministers from eight Arab countries warned that the worsening civil war in Yemen threatened the stability of their nations and called for an immediate ceasefire.

Ministers from the six Gulf Cooperation Council states—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates—are meeting behind closed doors with their Egyptian and Syrian counterparts in the Damascus Declaration grouping formed in 1991 at the end of the Gulf war.

The Gulf states except Qatar implicitly recognised the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic at a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council in June. [passage omitted]

North Seizes Airport Near al-Mukalla

NC0507151394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1426 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 5 Jul (MENA)—MENA has learned from informed sources in Sanaa that the north Yemeni forces seized al-Riyan Airport, 20 km from Hadramaut's capital of al-Mukalla, at noon today. This followed fierce fighting near the airport in which various types of weapons, including light weapons and bayonets, were used.

South Governor Denies North Near al-Mukalla

LD0507160194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1451 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Aden, 5 Jul (KUNA)—Ahmad Bin-Mazid al-Sarimah, the governor of al-Shabwah province in south Yemen, has denied that north Yemeni forces have come close to al-Mukalla, which is about 620 km to the east of Aden. The governor told KUNA that a group of the reform party [of north Yemen] had infiltrated to a distance of 30 km from the city but the southern forces

encircled and eliminated it. Al-Sarimah said that the southern forces lost 18 dead while the northerners lost 200 dead and wounded and 60 were taken prisoner. He further said that in addition to this an Iraqi colonel called Hazim al-'Abdallah al-Mushtaq and a Sudanese lieutenant colonel called 'Abd-al-Salam Nur had been captured. [passage omitted]

Basindwah Confirms Control of al-Mukalla

JN0507183194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, who currently on a brief visit to Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, which chairs the current session of the Security Council, has reviewed the latest developments in Yemen on the al-Mukalla and Aden fronts.

Speaking to our correspondent in Islamabad Ahmad Idris, Basindwah said:

[Begin recording] I believe that the success of the legitimate and unity forces in restoring control of al-Mukalla and al-Riyan Airport, and of Aden and Aden Airport, means that things have reached their end and that there will be no chance for continued fighting. This also spells the end of the secessionist plan forever. There is no doubt that this was achieved thanks to God first, and thanks to our militant people who rallied around their homeland's unity, as well as to the forces of legitimacy and unity, which fought bravely on the battlefield in defense of their homeland's unity, independence, and safety.

I hope that reason will prevail and wisdom will triumph. Everybody should know that goodness comes from a unified Yemeni homeland, based on sound democratic bases. [end recording]

'Normal' Life Returning to al-Mukalla

JN0607084294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] A correspondent for the Yemeni News Agency, SABA, in al-Mukalla, the capital of Hadhramaut, said in a report, which the agency received last night, that life in al-Mukalla has returned to normal and that shops have opened their doors after the forces of unity and legitimacy cleansed al-Mukalla and its neighborhoods, including al-Riyan airport, of the remnants of rebellion and secession.

The correspondent added that citizens in the city received the forces of unity and legitimacy with great enthusiasm and joy, chanting slogans expressing their adherence to Yemeni unity and support for the political leadership under the unionist nationalist leader, struggler Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. They also expressed great joy over the downfall of the dark nightmare that clouded their peaceful, unionist city; a nightmare represented by the

rebel, secessionist agent al-Bid and his secessionist, rebel gang, which employed all kinds of tyranny, suppression, and terrorism against the citizens during their presence in the governorate.

The SABA' correspondent noted that the citizens received the return of Brother Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani, the Hadahramaut governor, with great joy and a warm welcome. Thanks to the governor's sincerity and great efforts, the governorate saw several services and developmental projects in all fields. The citizens voiced readiness to cooperate with him for the public good. The brother governor thanked them for their nationalistic and unionist feelings, stressing that he will do all he can to implement the instructions of the brother leader president to take care of the governorate and rebuild what was destroyed by the secessionist agents during their presence there.

The SABA' correspondent said Brother Salih 'Ubad, Hadhramaut Governor, appealed through al-Mukalla radio to all officials and workers in government departments and institutions to report to work as normal and to serve the public interest under the canopy of the state of unity, the state of law and order.

Aircraft Said Seized in al-Riyan Airport

JN0607092094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 6 Jul (INA)—Yemeni legitimacy forces seized 15 secessionist aircraft when they overtook al-Riyan airport yesterday. The INA correspondent in Sanaa has learned from informed Yemeni sources that the seized aircraft are Sukhois and MiG-21's that are in good operational condition.

It is worth mentioning that al-Riyan airport, which was seized by Yemeni legitimacy forces yesterday after hand-to-hand combat with the secessionists, had been used by the secessionists from the start of the war in Yemen two months ago to strike at distant economic targets and military positions.

Al-Bid 'Leading the Fighting' in al-Mukalla

LD0607105694 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A south Yemeni source today said that the Aden forces are still in control of al-Mukalla, the second largest town in the south, and he stressed that the secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [al-Bid] is personally leading the fighting against the northern forces.

The source stressed that the fighting between the two sides has led to the killing of hundreds of people and a large number of bodies are still strewn on the battle scene. He said that a minister of the government of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] that has been declared in the south has been killed, but there has not yet been any immediate information about his identity.

The source added that Ahmad Farid al-Sarimah, the south Yemeni governor of Shabwah and its military commander, and Shaykh 'Awadh al-Shin, the leader of the Shabwa tribes, have also been injured. The source said that the situation in al-Mukalla is now under the full control of the southern forces.

Sanaa Says 'Renegades' Forcing Students To Fight

JN0507185694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The forces of the renegades and secessionists in Aden have forced school students to confront the forces of unity and legitimacy in the south-western sector of Aden Governorate and to support their retreating and defeated militias.

These forces forced the students to move from the city of Kraytar and asked them to carry weapons against the forces of constitutional legitimacy, and to attack them in that sector.

A correspondent from the Yemeni News Agency, SABA, (?in that sector) said the forces of unity and legitimacy confronted this desperate resistance, carried out by the gang of secession and agency and the deceived ones, and succeeded in destroying four tanks and seized a modern tank that is ready for use, in addition to four armed systems [atqum] and a number of vehicles.

The correspondent emphasized that a number of those deceived students who were forced by the militias of the gang of secession have surrendered themselves to the forces of unity and legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas Comments on Military, Political Situations

NC0507172794 London MBC Television in Arabic 1604 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Haydar Abu-al-Bakr al-'Attas, "prime minister of the government that has been proclaimed in Aden", in New York, by Nicole Tannuri, in London; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tannuri] What are the latest military developments in south Yemen?

[Al-'Attas] We have been conducting a dialogue here in New York on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 931, which concerns finding a mechanism to monitor the cease-fire. While we were doing this and despite the repeated cease-fire agreements, Sanaa has violated the cease-fire and expanded the scope of the war. Some positions have been infiltrated. Fighting is going on now in Aden, in the Khormaksar area, and in al-Mukallah outskirts.

[Tannuri] According to some reports, there are tanks around the Aden Hotel near the Airport.

[Al-'Attas] According to the information I have received, there has actually been infiltration in the direction of the airport and the desert area. Fighting is taking place there now. Our armed forces, backed by volunteers, are fighting heroically to repulse the attackers.

[Tannuri] What can you tell us about the political developments? What point have you reached in your negotiations, taking into account that the United States is procrastinating in finding a mechanism to consolidate the cease-fire?

[Al-'Attas] We have made great efforts to abide by the UN Security Council resolution and accept the unanimous international resolution. We began by discussing how to find a mechanism to supervise the cease-fire. However, the UN bureaucracy and slow methods and the Sanaa brothers' attitude toward the resolution have complicated things and enabled Sanaa to procrastinate. We have not found a mechanism so far.

[Tannuri] Will this situation make you withdraw from the New York talks?

[Al-'Attas] We are now discussing this issue with the UN secretary general. We have addressed one message to this effect to the secretary general and another one to the UN Security Council president.

[Tannuri] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, thank you.

[Al-'Attas] May God preserve you. Goodbye.

Damascus Declaration States Urged To Recognize DRY

LD0607091694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Aden, 6 Jul (KUNA)—'Abd-al-Rahman 'Ali al-Jifri, vice president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY] which was declared in South Yemen said today that the people in South Yemen are waiting for the results of the meeting in Kuwait of the Damascus Declaration countries' [foreign] ministers.

In a statement to KUNA, al-Jifri said: We are confident that these eight states, with their regional, Arab, and international weight, cannot but take the correct position with their people in democratic Yemen which the aggressors in Sanaa have decided to liquidate. Al-Jifri urged the Damascus Declaration states to quickly recognize the republic declared in the south. He stressed that any delay in this recognition is considered by the people and the authority in the south as further fierce aggression against it, and more killing and destruction of the people, a matter which will not be accepted by our Arab brothers.

Al-Jifri said: The entire population in the south is waiting for the results of this important meeting which we hope will be an historic one in the life of our people. We hope, he said, that the results will not consist just of appeals or calls to the rulers in Sanaa with whom such

urgings and statements are now futile. The latter have in fact abandoned the values of pan-Arabism, ethics, and Islam. [passage omitted]

Al-Jifri Refuses To Confirm Presence of MiG-29's
PM0507132294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Khayrallah Khayrallah, Raghidah Dirgham, and Iqbal 'Abdallah: "Al-Jifri Tells AL-HAYAH: We Obtained MiG-29 From Where 'Ali Salih Obtains Unlimited Tanks"]

[Excerpts] London, New York, Aden—Northern pressure intensified yesterday on Aden, all of whose areas are now at the mercy of the Katyusha rockets fired by the northern forces besieging the city. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council in the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" [DRY], has told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that Sanaa's orders call for "the deliberate bombardment of civilians." Al-Jifri neither denied or confirmed southerners' acquisition of MiG-26 aircraft. However, he added: "If we have obtained them, I say we have obtained them from where 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih obtains hundreds of tanks...he obtains hundreds of tanks without limit." [passage omitted]

Asked again whether they [southerners] have obtained MiG-29 aircraft, he said, "I neither denied or confirmed it...however, we have not yet used our air force extensively. Actually we are under pressure from citizens to hit our cities in the north in retaliation to the bombardment of civilians in Aden, but we are refusing to do so." He did not rule out that the regime in Sanaa might resort to carrying out bombings in some northern cities and then accuse southerners of involvement.

In New York, Yemeni Planning and Development Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and DRY Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas have agreed on a mechanism to consolidate the cease-fire in Yemen. [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani told AL-HAYAH that he has submitted a new initiative to both UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and his special envoy to the effect that "we have decided to withdraw the heavy weapons from the Bi'r Nasir area to enable engineers—some 50 of them—to enter it to repair the pumping station to supply Aden with water." [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani said that an agreement has been reached on a mechanism to consolidate the cease-fire, "and we are awaiting the opinion of the UN Legal Department." He added that "we are agreed, and all that remains is the legal version in order to sign the agreement" on the mechanism.

He said that the tasks of the mechanism and the places where observers are to be deployed are "left to military

officials." He expected the mechanism to be put into force in the next few days. [passage omitted]

South Said Keeping Air Force as 'Last Card'

PM0607093694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jul 94 p3

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Qawi Makkawi, member of the "Presidential Council of the Democratic Republic of Yemen," by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Do you see anything new in the Security Council's resolution?

[Makkawi] Regrettably, the Security Council has failed to lay down a mechanism for stopping the fighting. The barbaric inhuman aggression has reached extreme limits and the situation is very serious making it necessary for the international community, the Arab League, and international humanitarian organizations to speed up their efforts to rescue the afflicted people who have been the target of aggression and whose crisis threatens the region's security and world peace.

The Security Council has, for the second time, issued a resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire but the authorities in the north did not heed it and in fact challenged it and repeatedly violated it. I ask, how could the Security Council tolerate the flagrant violation of its resolutions all this time without making a deterrent, decisive, and binding decision and without imposing punishment before more catastrophes occur?

Is the Security Council waiting for the annihilation of what is left of the civilians in Aden before passing the decisive resolution we have called for? It is four weeks since Resolution 924 was passed but the fighting has not stopped but in fact intensified. Commitments made have not been honored. That is why I believe that a return to Yemen by Brahimi [UN secretary general's envoy] would be futile, particularly in view of the harsh and bitter experience he has had. The result would be more massacres and procrastination.

The urgent task that we are waiting to see fulfilled is stopping the fighting first and then agreeing on a mechanism for ending the war and providing urgent humanitarian aid, especially for the inhabitants of Aden.

[Abu-Husayn] Despite all that has happened, Sanaa still makes dialogue conditional on unity. Could Aden accept that to rescue what can be rescued of the people?

[Makkawi] What 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is asking for is a thing of the past. He had the Pledge and Accord Document and there was an opportunity to have a decentralized government as a way of coexistence between the two sides on the basis of that document which was signed by both sides, but that formula evaporated and did not succeed. Furthermore, a Gulf responsible source has told us that a prominent shaykh in Sanaa who heads a tribal and fundamentalist party had told him that

whoever renounces unity renounces Islam and that the south is just a branch which must obediently return to the main origin. We have also heard that a senior religious shaykh in the same party issued a fatwa [edict] saying that Islam allows the killing of South Yemeni people and the looting of their property and the raping of their women. Is that the true religion? We want a fatwa from the ulema of the holy al-Azhar to answer that dangerous talk.

[Abu-Husayn] In your view, until when will the current war continue, considering the military capabilities of both sides?

[Makkawi] If Aden stood fast for a month it would be impossible for Sanaa to continue the fighting, and if they [the northern forces] entered the city before then, that would be unacceptable internationally because it would be seen as occupation in which case Sanaa would be internationalizing the war and opening the way for foreign interference to liberate Aden. Sanaa is self-contradictory and it rejects internationalization as well as Arabization.

[Abu-Husayn] Can the south disengage the forces and push the northerners back to the dividing borders?

[Makkawi] Yes, the south has a superior air force which can accomplish that but it prefers a settlement by peaceful means first and adherence to the cease-fire, and is content with just self-defense. The south is perhaps keeping the air force as the last card for the accomplishment of that task but only that task, without attacking vital installations or civilians. We are still waiting to see what the Security Council is going to do about the request we have submitted calling for the disengagement and withdrawal of the northern forces to their previous border positions.

South Threatens To Withdraw From New York Talks

NC0507152294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1423 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (MENA)—Aden has repeated its warning that it will withdraw its delegation from New York because the ongoing deliberations there have become fruitless in view of the fact that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is insisting on expanding the scope of the war.

[South Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister] 'Abdallah al-Asnaj distributed a statement in Cairo today saying that the efforts by the UN Security Council, the Arab League, and friendly and fraternal countries have failed to end the "war of extermination" to which southern Yemenis are being subjected.

Al-Asnaj accused the northern forces of going to great extremes in violating all cease-fires, which proves that the Yemeni Government is using the negotiations as a ruse in making military gains on the battlefield.

Al-Asnaj warned that Aden will withdraw its delegation from New York. He said Aden "regards the continuation of the war as a threat to its people and other fraternal countries in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf in general."

South May Issue Own Currency To Avert Sanaa Pressure

PM0607090094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jul 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Democratic Republic of Yemen Considering Issuing Its Own Currency"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY], said yesterday that serious consideration is being given to preventing the local currency stockpiled in Sanaa from entering DRY territory.

Al-Jifri told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that "a serious study is currently being conducted in Aden to pursue a new monetary policy and issue a new currency in the DRY." Circles in Aden have accused Sanaa of stockpiling all types of old currency (riyal and dinar) "in the framework of the attempts it made before the fighting broke out to suffocate the south economically before suffocating it militarily."

Basindwah's London News Conference Reported

JN0507155394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Report from the "News Follow-Ups" program]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah has held a news conference in London. It was attended by press, television, and radio correspondents in Britain. At the beginning of the news conference, the brother minister welcomed those attending. He then explained the latest developments on the Yemeni arena, answered questions, and addressed an urgent appeal to the entire international community to speedily move to save the citizens in Aden's residential districts that are still under rebels' control.

He noted that the rebels reject the delivery of humanitarian aid and relief supplies to the miserable families in the city, who are being used by the rebels as human shields. He said: We are deeply pained by the suffering of innocent citizens in Aden. However, the rebels are interested in seeing the citizens suffer, because all that they are interested in is arousing the sympathy of the world public opinion, taking advantage of the suffering of those citizens for selfish purposes. He explained that exploiting those citizens' suffering for such mean objectives represents the peak of inhumanity and is considered a matter [words indistinct].

He said: We invite journalists, news agency correspondents, and the military attaches of the states that have or do not have embassies in Sanaa to explore the facts instead of falling victim to misinformation and deliberate distortion. He indicated that the government has sent 50 technicians to repair the water station in Bi'r Nasir. He said some of those technicians have been killed as a result of the continuous shelling of the remnant secessionist forces.

Stressing that the battle has been settled, the brother foreign minister said: Had the rebels been in possession of military morals and traditions, they would have surrendered when the al-'Anad base was captured. However, most regrettably, they are interested in anything beyond their continued control of our people in Yemen. Strangely enough, some sympathize with those rebels today although everyone knows that for the past two and one-half decades, citizens have suffered far more under the rebels than they did under British colonialists in the past. [passage omitted]

The brother foreign minister appealed to the international community to force the rebels to release the innocent citizens they are holding as human shields in the districts of [place-name indistinct] in particular. He added: There has been some nonsense about indiscriminate shelling. Had this indiscriminate shelling been investigated, the facts would have been clarified. Those responsible for this shelling are the rebels inside Aden. Had they had an iota of honor, courage, and dignity, they would have had mercy on the afflicted citizens and would have surrendered to the legitimate authority or left the homeland. However, refusing to surrender, they want to exploit the citizens' suffering in the interest of their personal purposes and interests to ensure their continued control of innocent citizens.

Al-Zindani Receives Qatari, UAE, Omani Envoys

JN0407181694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Presidential Council member brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani has received brother Muhammad 'Ali al-Ansari, ambassador of the fraternal State of Qatar in Sanaa.

The brother Presidential Council member expressed the appreciation of Yemen—government and people—for the firm and principled stand of the fraternal State of Qatar, which supports Yemeni unity. This stand will be inscribed in the Yemenis' hearts and the collective memory of future generations, al-Zindani said.

For his part, the brother Qatari ambassador affirmed that Yemeni unity is an asset to all Arabs, and that the sentiments of the Qatari people are pro-Yemen. He hoped that security, stability, and peace will prevail in Yemen so that it may enjoy its resources and safeguard its unity and sovereignty.

Presidential Council Member brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani also received brother Sayf Bin-Maktum al-Mansuri, ambassador of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in Sanaa. They discussed fraternal bilateral ties.

The brother Presidential Council member explained the phases experienced in the Yemeni crisis. He also noted how the rebellious and secessionist elements worked to close all doors to dialogue and understanding, and pushed for a flare-up of hostilities. He asserted that defending the country, its unity, and its independence has become a duty. He said that the political leadership has taken the oath to do so; and the leadership does keep its promises and pledges.

The brother Presidential Council members commended the aid the UAE has extended to the Yemeni people. He wished the bilateral ties constant enhancement.

For his part, the UAE ambassador expressed the UAE's support for Yemeni unity. The ambassador added that there can be no Arab or Muslim who could condone secession. He regretted the ongoing bloodletting, and hoped that our country will overcome this ordeal.

Presidential Council Member brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani also received Talib Bin-Sa'id al-Husali, Omani charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Bilateral ties were discussed. The brother Presidential Council member explained that the Sultanate of Oman has been well aware of the details of the Yemeni crisis since its inception, and that it made contributions toward resolving it. The Sultanate has seen the intransigence of the secessionist elements. Hence, we expect our Omani brothers to continue their efforts to safeguard Yemeni unity, which is an asset to all Arabs, brother al-Zindani said.

For his part, the Omani charge d'affaires affirmed the importance of exchanging views and cooperation to address the current crisis.

Al-Anisi Appreciates Turkey's Support for Unity

JN0407182094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi today received Turkish Ambassador in Sanaa Volkan Cotur.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral ties and the means of promoting them. They also reviewed the current situation.

The Turkish ambassador reiterated his country's support for Yemeni unity, which is a factor of peace and stability in the region.

For his part, the deputy prime minister expressed the Yemeni Government's appreciation of Turkey's principled and firm stand toward Yemeni unity.

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces General Command Meeting*JN0407185994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jul 94*

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God watch over him, has chaired an Armed Forces General Command meeting.

Saddam Speaks on Irrigation, Water Distribution*JN0307204294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jul 94*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, has said monitoring the water distribution for the purpose of irrigating agricultural land and the distribution of water rations and their relationship to the nature and extent of land utilization have been, since the time of the Babylonians, a priority issue in their policies and a major concern of the Babylonian ruler and his subjects.

His excellency added: Excessive use of water and the lack of regulations for water use for irrigation purposes, based on the fertility of the agricultural land and the nature of the crop, will lead to waste and to increased salinity and will also deprive other lands of their share of water.

His excellency made these statements when he chaired the eighth Cabinet session. His excellency instructed that the Ministries of Irrigation and Agriculture to study a program to control irrigation and the distribution of water shares and incentives to the officials entrusted with executing this program, in order to achieve the best possible utilization of the available resources and increase the yield and size of agricultural land.

The Cabinet then discussed a report on the performance of the Interior Ministry and its agencies. The leader president, may God preserve and protect him, praised the ministry's general directions and made instructions to improve the performance of its agencies in its broad-based activities and to increase cooperation between the ministry and the citizens.

Allocates Funds for Water Project*JN0407123594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Jul 94*

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 17 million dinars to complete the drinking water project in the eastern Qusaybah region in al-Anbar Governorate.

The al-Anbar deputy governor told INA's correspondent that the technical and engineering cadres have started work to complete this project. The project has a capacity of a quarter of a million gallons daily and is designed to meet the residents' needs of drinking water. It is hoped to complete the project during this year.

The deputy governor added that President Saddam Husayn has also ordered that repair work begin to re-operate the water system that irrigates the western desert in al-Rutbah district, which was damaged by the sinful U.S.-Zionist aggression against our steadfast Iraq.

Talabani Discusses Action To Topple Regime*NC0607063394 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Jul 94*

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader, by unidentified correspondents of the newspaper AL-MUTAMAR and the Iraqi Television Broadcasting Corporation, mouthpieces of the Unified Iraqi National Congress; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Brother Jalal Talabani, before you are some questions preoccupying Iraqis. Iraqis in the country and in exile are querying the Iraqi opposition's slow movement. What do you think the opposition should do to activate its role?

[Talabani] I believe the Iraqi opposition, which is represented by the UINC [Unified Iraqi National Congress] should step up its various political, diplomatic, organizational, and military activities. It is my view that the time has come to undertake serious action inside the country and to move seriously toward preparing the requirements for forming a transitional Iraqi government that represents the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, Turkomen, Muslims, Christians, and also the Assyrian brothers—and for forming an army to liberate Iraq. This army should be formed from the forces of the various Iraqi opposition groups. There should be contacts with the cities that are still under the Iraqi regime's control. The contacts should include the increasing numbers of unhappy elements in the regime and the Armed Forces' ranks. I believe the way to achieve this is to start by activating the UINC's bodies, such as the Executive Council and the Iraqi National Assembly, and by holding an effective and serious meeting that will draw up plans for stepping up efforts and for undertaking serious action this year. I believe it is important to contact the other Iraqi opposition parties that are not UINC members, such as the Damascus-based National Democratic Trend and some of the opposition groups that are outside the UINC, to coordinate with these parties.

[Correspondent] Do you think regional and international conditions allow the formation of a transitional government?

[Talabani] I believe the Iraqi opposition's own conditions will improve if we take serious action. The internal conditions will evolve if we also take serious action. Stagnation creates despair among the people and those opposed to the regime living under it. I believe the international conditions can be suitable if we take serious action. These international conditions have a positive effect on regional conditions. There will be a

more positive response to the Iraqi people and its rights when it is seen that there is serious and effective action inside Iraq. As you know, an important part of Iraq, liberated Kurdistan, is living under the opposition. The UINC presence on the homeland's soil is a factor of strength and a very positive one too. If we benefit from these conditions and take serious action, I believe we can effect a change in the international stance on the Middle East region.

[Correspondent] What scenario do you think can possibly bring down the regime?

[Talabani] I believe the scenario starts by activating the UINC, establishing ties of struggle with the opposition forces, parties, and groups that are not UINC members, taking serious action to form the army to liberate Iraq, and serious moves to form a transitional government on the homeland's soil. As you know, Irbil is Iraq's second official capital. It is a liberated city now and under the Iraqi opposition's control. If we take serious action, that is, form a transitional government and a liberation army, then I believe we can hope for and expect a joint popular and military uprising in Iraq. I believe there is no other way to liberate Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Brother Jalal Talabani, do you expect an end to the regrettable incidents following your recent meeting with Mas'ud Barzani?

[Talabani] The fraternal fighting was caused by local and external factors. There were several reasons for this fighting, including foreign intervention. There was intervention by some neighboring countries, Baghdad, and other [word indistinct] countries. These countries are not happy with the democratic experiment in Kurdistan and want to destroy it. They believe it is easy to destroy it by recruiting Kurds as agents, giving them weapons and funds, and pushing them to fight, as is happening in the border areas. We should put all these factors together and put a stop to them. I believe fraternal fighting is a crime and a tragedy. We must exert all our efforts to end it. But we should have a panoramic [last word in English] view that takes in all the factors and circumstances so as to eliminate all the local and external causes and conditions.

[Correspondent] Are there violations?

[Talabani] Yes. Our meetings are positive and continuing and we are drawing up solutions. A joint central committee has been formed to control these violations, prevent persecution and pursuit, and normalize the situation. I am full of hope and expect positive results soon, God willing. More precisely, these are our real intentions and policy. I can categorically say there will be no more fighting. But the external factors are sometimes stronger than the local ones. I have always said there will be no return to fighting. Brother Barzani has said that fighting is a crime and there is no going back to this crime. Yet there was fighting. The reason for this was that the external factors were stronger than our own desires and good intentions. We should establish the

conditions that will prevent fighting once and for all. I can assure you on behalf of the two sides that there is no intention to resume the fighting. I would like to thank you and praise the role played by brother Dr. Ahmad Chalabi, chairman of the UINC Executive Council, in ending the fighting between the brothers and in preparing the conditions for stopping the fighting and also for his positive stance on eliminating the external factors that led to this tragedy. [passage omitted]

Newspapers Reduce Size, Number of Pages

JN0607103294

[Editorial Report] 1. Baghdad AL-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic, which began to publish in a 16-page tabloid format on 3 and 6 June 1993 respectively, were observed to reduce the number of pages by half and publish in an eight-page tabloid format as of 1 and 3 July respectively. AL-JUMHURIYAH's 2 July issue has not been received.

2. Baghdad AL-IRAQ in Arabic was also observed to begin publishing in an eight-page tabloid format on 1 July instead of the usual eight-page broadsheet format.

3. Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic reduced its size by half as of 3 July. It is now published in a four-page broadsheet format. The 2 July issue has not been received. In the "Free Opinion" column on page four of the 3 July issue of AL-QADISIYAH, Amir al-Hulw says: "They may compel us to reduce the number of the pages of our newspapers and magazines and the quantities printed due to the unjust embargo imposed on us, but they will not be able to destroy the spirit of continuation and survival."

4. Only Baghdad BABIL in Arabic continues to publish with the usual size and number of pages. The 12-page broadsheet paper continues to be sold for five Iraqi dinars and the others for two dinars each. All publish five days a week except for BABIL, which publishes six days a week.

5. Despite the reduced size of the papers, pictures of Saddam Husayn continue to be published on the front pages.

6. Receipt of Iraqi papers at Jordan Bureau in June was regular. All issues were received except for one issue of BABIL, AL-JUMHURIYAH, and AL-IRAQ.

Ba'th Party Delegation Returns From Jordan Visit

JN0607112394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today returned to Baghdad following a visit of several days to fraternal Jordan at the invitation of Jordanian parties and political forces.

'Abd-al-Ghafur said the delegation discussed with the brothers in Jordan the good efforts to utilize the positive developments in the UN Security Council and the serious departure from the biased U.S. positions, as well as the means to activate the role of party, parliamentary, mass, and professional organizations in the current phase to pressure the UN Security Council to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 in the next Security Council review this month.

He said the Jordanian parties and political forces briefed the Ba'th Party delegation on their plan to lift the blockade imposed against Iraq and its steadfast people through party, parliamentary, and mass activities; contacts with their counterparts in the Arab homeland and the world and by activating the role of these forces; and the implementation of a future plan for the activities of parties, political forces, and the popular, mass, parliamentary, and professional organizations in the Arab homeland.

BABIL Expects 'Positive Move' at Next UN Review

JN0207114594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA)—Now that the date for the next UN Security Council [UNSC] periodic review session to examine Iraq's so-called compliance with the relevant UNSC resolutions, slated to be held on 18 July, is approaching, the Western media and the legion of

agents are expected to begin their usual task of promoting loathsome anti-Iraqi lies, the newspaper BABIL believes.

In an article entitled "The Next Review Session" published today, the paper adds that the aim of this artificial fuss is well known and exposed: It is to shuffle the cards and poison the climate to maintain the current state of affairs.

The paper wonders: But, will the United States manage to achieve this objective, particularly since it has to address hard facts pertaining to the progress made thus far—the progress that has been acknowledged by several permanent and nonpermanent members of the UNSC.

The paper believes that the United States will not be able to achieve this objective, especially since Iraq is wagering on its heroic people, their splendid steadfastness, and the wisdom of its leadership, which has pulled the rug from under the feet of the enemies and neutralized their false pretexts—which paves the way for a positive move in this regard.

The paper says that the missions of the UN teams currently visiting Iraq are marked by calm and fruitful action, particularly since their leaders have expressed satisfaction with the relationships they are maintaining with the competent Iraqi authorities, and also with the fruitful cooperation they are receiving from these authorities. Moreover, their reports noted that they have made substantial progress in their work.

Rabin on 'Arafat's Mention of Jerusalem as Capital

TA0507141094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Moshe Nestelbaum in Jerusalem on 5 July—recorded]

[Text] [Nestelbaum] Mr. Rabin, how do you react to remarks by Yasir 'Arafat who said that Jerusalem will become Palestine's capital?

[Rabin] Look, my reaction is the same as it was following the speech by the Palestinian representative at the Madrid conference and as the one following the speech by al-Sadat in Jerusalem years ago—al-Sadat also said the same thing at the time. We insist on our position that Jerusalem remain united under Israel's sovereignty and be Israel's capital forever. According to the Declaration of Principles we signed with the PLO, the Jerusalem issue is not a subject for negotiations now. It is a subject for negotiations on the permanent solution, and when we reach this stage our position will be as I have just defined it. Today we are engaged in continuing to implement the Declaration of Principles agreement, and we will pursue the road outlined by this agreement. We are not dealing with Jerusalem at this stage.

[Later in the newsreel, television reporter Menashe Raz adds that "Mr. Rabin said that measures will be taken against the settlers who blocked roads leading to Jericho today, as is the customary with regard to lawbreakers."]

Peres Comments on Empowerment, 'Arafat Statements

TA0607110294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000
GMT 6 Jul 94

[Report from Paris by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres will meet PLO Chairman 'Arafat in Paris shortly to discuss early empowerment in Judea and Samaria. Prior to the meeting, Foreign Minister Peres says that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Arab population centers in the territories does not necessarily depend on general elections in the territories. Peres says there is an option of municipal elections. Peres also addressed the problems involved in early empowerment in the West Bank, the next stage in the process, which will be discussed during today's meeting:

[Begin Peres recording] This is indeed a complicated issue, because the problem is not merely the transfer of powers, but also who will enforce them. One of the powers to be transferred, for example, is taxation. What will happen if people refuse to pay taxes? Who will enforce this? Will it be the Israeli or the Palestinian police? We have also seen that there is a very serious budget problem. As long as we handled the budget things were clear and well-organized. We still do not know how

things will look in future. We must thoroughly examine the ramifications of early empowerment. [end recording]

Referring to 'Arafat's repeated statements regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, made during his visits to Gaza and Jericho, Peres says we should not get excited about them:

[Begin Peres recording] If we do not learn to distinguish between 'Arafat's verbosity and his actions, we will have a constant headache. We are familiar with both his rhetoric and his politics. Judging by his rhetoric we should not have done anything, but as far as politics are concerned, I am not familiar with any other Palestinian leader who was willing to take upon himself Gaza and Jericho, and all this entails. [end recording]

This afternoon Rabin, Peres, and 'Arafat will receive the UNESCO peace award. We asked Peres whether the next stage is the Nobel Prize:

[Begin Peres recording] Look, my name is Peres, but I am not an expert on prizes. [end recording]

Rabin, 'Arafat, Delegation Leave for Paris

TA0607091494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900
GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat are on their way to Paris, where they will hold an encounter with the participation of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Prime Minister Rabin is accompanied on his trip by Major General Dani Yatom, his military secretary, by Major Generals Dani Rothschild and 'Uzi Dayan, and by his office Director General Shim'on Sheves.

Yasir 'Arafat, who left Gaza via Cairo, is accompanied by Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Jamil al-Tarifi, as well as Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, member of the military coordination committee.

The first Rabin-Peres-'Arafat meeting will take place at midday in Paris. Tonight they will meet again, after receiving an international peace award.

Officials To Resume 'Working-Level' PLO Talks

TA0107132294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300
GMT 1 Jul 94

[Text] A forum convened in the prime minister's bureau today decided that the talks with the PLO on early empowerment, the size of the Jericho area; and the Palestinian demand that a policemen be stationed on Allenby Bridge, should be resumed as soon as possible.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that the talks will be conducted by working-level teams under Major General Dani Rothschild's supervision.

It was further decided that in coordination with the Palestinians, the four-way committee comprising Egyptian, Jordanian, PLO, and Israeli delegates will convene

to discuss the problem of the displaced Palestinians who left the territories following the Six-Day War.

Stands on Upcoming Talks Detailed

TA0307105494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jul 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben, Eytan Rabin, and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] Israel will make gradual, step-by-step progress in the talks on the next stages of the agreement with the PLO. This was the conclusion of the discussion Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres summoned on 1 July in preparation for their meeting with PLO Chairman 'Arafat on 5 July in Paris.

The stands Israel will present when negotiations on the issues set out in the Declaration of Principles will resume were determined in this discussion. It has been decided to immediately begin discussing the transfer of civilian powers in the West Bank and the implementation of the clauses left open in the Gaza and Jericho agreement.

In addition, Israel will propose that the quadripartite committee of Israeli, PLO, Egyptian, and Jordanian representatives, slated to discuss the return of displaced Palestinians from 1967, be summoned. The discussion on elections in the territories and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank will be postponed.

As the Rabin-Peres-'Arafat meeting approaches, a disagreement is emerging between Israel and the PLO regarding the timetable for the continuation of the talks and the implementation of the agreement. Israel is rejecting the demands publicly raised by the Palestinians to begin implementing the next stages of the arrangement. [passage omitted]

The various channels of communication in which the negotiations with the PLO will be held were reviewed in the discussion summoned by Rabin:

—Transfer of civilian authorities: Israel is offering to immediately resume the discussion on the transfer of authorities determined in the Declaration of Principles: health, education, social welfare, tourism, and direct taxation. After these authorities are transferred, discussions on the transfer of additional authorities will begin.

In the discussion it was said that the Palestinians are still having difficulties in exercising the civilian authorities they assumed in Gaza and Jericho and that they are having serious financial problems. That is why it has been decided not to expedite the transfer of additional authorities to them.

The main problem in implementing the empowerment is the fact that there will be two parallel authorities operating in the field: the Palestinian Authority and the Civil Administration. The Palestinians will require Israeli approval to carry out various projects in fields that will

be under their authority: for example, licenses for the construction of schools and hospitals.

Another problem in this regard will be the Palestinian demand that they be allowed to establish a police force in the West Bank to enforce tax collection. In Israel, there is disagreement on this issue, as some elements fear there friction between the Palestinian police force and the IDF and Israel Police, which will be operating in the same regions simultaneously. Rabin decided that operating a Palestinian police force in the West Bank, outside Jericho, will not be discussed for the time being. Political sources, however, believe that this is an opening stand and that the issue is open for debate.

The discussions on empowerment will apparently be held in Cairo, as Peres and 'Arafat agreed in the past. The Israeli delegation will be headed by Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories.

—The continued implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement: Several clauses of this agreement—such as setting up the international presence of some 400 observers in these regions—have not been implemented yet. Rabin promised 'Arafat that discussions will be held on stationing a Palestinian policeman on the Jordan River bridge, expanding the territory of Jericho, and appointing a Palestinian director general for the Rafah border crossing. At the same time, Rabin announced that he will not give in on these issues.

The discussions on the Gaza-Jericho agreement will be held on a low level of experts currently operating the military and civilian liaison committees, without the involvement of the political echelons.

—The convention of the quadripartite committee: Israel is willing to immediately issue letters of invitation to the PLO, Jordan, and Egypt to convene the joint committee. This committee is slated to discuss matters of common interest to the parties, mainly the return of the 1967 displaced Palestinians to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel is demanding that this committee be held at the level of foreign ministers.

—Elections: The discussions on holding elections in the territories have begun and are to continue in the framework of the bilateral peace talks in Washington. These talks stopped in February, and it is not clear when they will be resumed.

Political sources have said that the elections issue will be discussed only after the discussions on empowerment in the West Bank are held. At the same time, it appears that Israel will not insist otherwise should the Palestinian ask that the talks be moved to the region and taken out of the Washington talks framework.

—The IDF redeployment: The Declaration of Principles determined that, on the eve of the elections, the IDF will have to redeploy its units in the West Bank outside the Palestinian population centers. Rabin

decided that the redeployment plan will be finalized only after an agreement is reached on the elections.

In addition to Rabin and Peres, the 1 July discussion was attended by Minister Yosi Sarid, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry legal adviser Yo'el Singer, and Majors General Amnon Shahaq and Dani Rothschild.

The IDF and the security forces are preparing for a possible 'Arafat tour of Jericho on 4 July. A senior defense establishment source said last night that, following coordination with Israel, 'Arafat may hold his Jericho visit today.

GPO Director Denies 'Arafat Allegations About Jericho

TA0507190994 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 0833 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Uri Dromi, director of the Government Press Office [GPO], has categorically denied allegations made by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian sources that Israel prevented Palestinians from the West Bank from reaching Jericho this morning (Tuesday), 5 July 94. The highest military authorities have confirmed that, except in a few instances when Israelis tried to block the roads (which were immediately cleared), there were no obstacles impeding access to Jericho.

The IDF was instructed to facilitate the access of Palestinians to Jericho, and this was indeed the case. Among other measures taken, traffic was sometimes diverted to alternate routes, in order to guarantee secure passage and to avoid friction with Israelis. In fact, in more than one instance, Israeli soldiers and policemen physically intervened to enable Palestinians to complete their journey in safety.

Given the proportions of the event, it is not inconceivable that the Palestinians experienced logistical difficulties in transporting large amounts of people. Blaming Israel for poor attendance at Arafat's reception is out-of-place. Instead of looking for scape-goats, the Palestinians would do better to examine their own performance.

Officials, Media React to 'Arafat's Gaza Visit

IDF Intelligence Chief 'Assesses' Visit

TA0607074794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] In the wake of 'Arafat's first trip to the autonomous areas, Israeli leaders have been assessing the visit. One of the first to do so was the head of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Military Intelligence, Major General Uri Sagi. He was speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Reporter David Ze'ev has details:

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is leaving the self-rule areas for now, but he leaves behind him controversy over the various speeches he has delivered. According to various sources inside the closed-door meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the head of Military Intelligence, Major General Uri Sagi, said that PLO Chairman 'Arafat no longer wishes to be regarded as an organization chairman, but as the leader of the Palestinian people wherever and wherever they may be. As a result, he greeted during his opening address last Friday in the Gaza Strip rival Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, as well as the Arabs in the Galilee and the Negev. Gen. Sagi said 'Arafat wishes to be viewed as the leader of the Arabs in the Galilee and in the Negev, though in the words of one source, the chief of military intelligence said he did not believe 'Arafat wished to include Yafo, for example, in his Palestinian state. He does wish to include Jerusalem in that state as the capital. Gen. Sagi is said to have emphasized that 'Arafat said that before, and he said it again now.

Opposition members of the committee expressed their disagreement with the Intelligence chief. Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin of the Likud says he was especially alarmed by Chairman 'Arafat's reference to the Arabs of the Galilee and the Negev. MK Begin said after the meeting, however, that nothing he said in the committee meeting would imply that Gen. Sagi, as senior Army officer, was inserting his own political views in his assessment.

Rubinstein Applauds Return

BR0507131994 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 2 Jul 94 p 12

[Interview with Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein by Umberto de Giovannangeli in Jerusalem; date not given: "'We Have Given Ourselves the Gift of Democracy'"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] Jerusalem—"The arrival of President 'Arafat in Gaza is an important step ahead on the road toward restoring normal relations between the Israelis and Palestinians. His presence in the territories can promote talks." This is how our conversation with Amnon Rubinstein, a key figure in the government of Yitzhaq Rabin, begins. Amnon Rubinstein is one of the most highly esteemed leaders of the Israeli left-wing lay group Meretz and also leads ones of the most important ministries in Israel, the Education and Culture Ministry, with the second largest budget after the Defense Ministry.

[De Giovannangeli] What does the arrival of 'Arafat in the Gaza Strip represent for Israel, at least for those who believed in the talks?

[Rubinstein] His presence has a symbolic value that goes far beyond the realm of politics. In fact, it is an unequivocal sign that the path taken in Washington 10 months ago is a road of no return, even though it is still a mine field.

[De Giovannangeli] What impact could this have on Israeli public opinion?

[Rubinstein] A positive impact if 'Arafat is able to dispel the shadows brought about by his "inopportune" statements on the Johannesburg mosque. I hope that the PLO president will be able to make good use of his time and speak to the hearts of the Israelis, as well as to the hearts of the Palestinians of course.

[De Giovannangeli] The Israeli right wing has defined this visit as being the "one of the many humiliations that the Rabin government has cast upon the Jewish nation," thus stirring up the people. How do you view this attitude?

[Rubinstein] The right wing is trying—and has been for some time—to turn to its political advantage the insecurity and fear still present in important sectors of society. It is a scene that has been repeated once again on this occasion. However, there is a very clear line separating political dissent from violence: Some extremist groups have exceeded all limits, by making use of and exalting violence and intolerance, and this is intolerable for any democratic state. On the other hand, as long as there is an awareness that talks can guarantee more peace and safety than thousands of armed men can, the majority of Israelis will continue to support the government's action. This has been confirmed by the latest opinion polls, which show Rabin as the most highly rated political leader. This personal approval is all the more important when you consider that, for the first time in next year's elections, the head of government will be elected directly by the people.

[De Giovannangeli] Two months have gone by since the signing of the accord on the autonomy of Gaza and Jericho, 10 months since the historical handshake between Rabin and 'Arafat. What conclusion can be drawn from the beginning of this "long walk toward peace."

[Rubinstein] All things considered, a positive one. First, from a security viewpoint, after a shaky start, the Palestinian police are operating effectively in the two administered territories. The climate has improved, cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli agents has now reached the point where 50,000 Israeli work permits have been issued to Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. This return to work is very important, because improved living conditions in the territories are decisive in building a lasting and righteous peace.

[De Giovannangeli] How can the international community help strengthen the peace process in the Middle East?

[Rubinstein] By demonstrating real solidarity, and not just on a diplomatic level. As far as we are concerned, the most important thing at this moment is showing Israeli public opinion that Europe intends to provide concrete help to Israel in its peace efforts. In this sense however,

things are not going as we hoped. In fact there have been too many delays at the level of economic and trade relations. We are also asking Europe to act upon the Arab countries and see that they really support the peace process, by ending the boycott against Israel. Right now, that would create the climate of mutual trust necessary to achieve peace throughout the region.

[De Giovannangeli] Does the concrete solidarity you refer to also involve the Palestinians?

[Rubinstein] Of course. The international community should immediately comply with the promises made to the Palestinians, by helping them build the economic and social foundations of their autonomy. Positive signs are starting to be seen, but they are still insufficient to instill in the Palestinians the hope that their life in the territories can change for the better.

[De Giovannangeli] In view of what has happened over these past 10 months, what kind of Israel do you dream of and what do you really think can be fully accomplished?

[Rubinstein] I am fighting for a democratic and Jewish state that is able to maintain in its every act the values the Jewish communities held to during the diaspora, even when that called for extreme sacrifices: tolerance, solidarity, respect for human values, the ability to listen to "others." It is precisely in order to see this dream right through to the end that we must reach peace with our Arab neighbors. In this context, the accord with the PLO is not a "concession" made to the Palestinians, but primarily a "gift" that Israel has given itself, because it is the only way to safeguard its most precious asset: democracy. Those who do not understand this, deny the very essence of Judaism.

Visit Said 'Impressive Success'

TA0607112294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AILARONOT in Hebrew 6 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "A Successful Visit"]

[Text] The Israeli Government and the PLO leadership may sigh with relief: As far as they are concerned, 'Arafat's first visit to Gaza and Jericho was an impressive success. Contrary to earlier forecasts, it was a mature visit with no mutual provocations. The visit clearly proved that the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians view the Oslo and Cairo agreements as final and are adjusting to the new reality of living next to each other as equals.

In the beginning of this year, many claimed that Yasir 'Arafat cannot show his face in Gaza; that he would be ripped to pieces by the angry, disappointed, betrayed Palestinian masses which have fully turned to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Recently, the experts changed their minds and warned that 'Arafat will not be able to come to Gaza and Jericho for just the opposite reason: Thousand of Palestinians from all over the

territories and Israel will follow him, they warned. Reality, however, was completely different. The Palestinians received 'Arafat in Gaza and Jericho with affection, respect, and without questioning his leadership, but with very restrained enthusiasm. A few thousands, not hundreds of thousands, rallied to listen to his speeches, and daily life stopped for only a few minutes. Above all, what we witnessed there was a familiar and typical Middle Eastern jumble.

In his speeches, 'Arafat sought to unite the Palestinians under the banner of the political arrangement, asking them to be realistic. He did not get excited, did not excite his audience, and did not go beyond banal, boring, agreed-on issues. At the end of his visit he sworn in the autonomy authority, thus finally paving the way for the receipt of promised international aid.

For the Israeli public, this was a successful national maturity test. Some 94 percent of the Israeli Jews did not move an inch to demonstrate against 'Arafat's visit. At the same time, the Israeli Arabs deemed it a natural obligation to pledge their total allegiance for Israel precisely during the visit.

The government instructed the security forces to show consideration for Palestinian national sensitivity, and 'Arafat did not shy away from contact with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers and an Israeli Air Force helicopter escort. Again, all the above happened despite the campaign of intimidation that preceded the visit.

Rabin, Peres, and 'Arafat will meet today in far-away Paris. But, now that Yasir 'Arafat is our next door neighbor and chairman of the neighboring Palestinian Authority, it may be assumed that this will be their last meeting outside the region.

Paper Views 'Calculated Political Restraint'

TA0307123994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jul 94 p A1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "A Mountain Made From A Mountain"]

[Text] Uri Avneri and his wife got themselves good center seats in the dignitaries' benches in Rafah, but 'Arafat did not. What is worse, the television cameras did not get to them either. They were not the only ones who were disappointed. It seemed that the man who has never missed a chance to miss a chance did it again. We knew he is no Demosthenes nor Churchill. On that historic day, he was not even 'Arafat. The lowest official of a local labor committee would have done it better.

In his 25-minute speech, the chairman left behind a long trail of disappointed people. He let down the heads of the Israel right-wing national camp by committing no provocation that could make them rise against him. With 35 degrees centigrade in the shade, the Israelis chose to go to the beach rather than "seize the government office complex," as Rabin had feared. He disappointed the

peace-supporting camp when he failed to say a word about canceling the Palestinian Covenant or make heart-warming al-Sadat-style remark such as "no more war." [last three words in English]

'Arafat disappointed the Rabin government when he failed to extend his support for its path by, for example, pledging to put an end to terrorism. He failed to satisfy the Gazans by not addressing even in the slightest, their economic plight, and they were seen walking away in protest before he completed his speech. He also let down the entire population of the territories by failing to deliver a message or at least mark a target that would make hearts leap.

Most of all, he disappointed the electronic media—an unforgivable sin here—which spared no words to describe the mess, point at the half-empty square, and note the absence of chemistry between the Gazans and their leader. The media spoke of an "anticlimax," a "mini boom," a "non-event," an "anti-event," a "tired speech," a "miss," and so on. The way 'Arafat is being treated is strange. Had he arranged a royal entry for himself and delivered a fiery speech, they would say that he is challenging Israel and ruining everything. Now, that his entry was messy, the visual media is disappointed. The media cannot accept the fact that 'Arafat is a political activist and not a rock star.

What went unnoticed is the fact that the disappointment of the many is really 'Arafat's success. He could have very easily delivered a speech that would have ignited the territories and automatically stopped the entire process. His low-key entry and "pale speech" were the fruit of calculated political restraint. He is about to meet Rabin and 'Arafat in Paris on 5 July (where they will receive a UNESCO peace award) and discuss expediting the next stages of the process. Is delivering an unleashed speech worth blowing up this summit?

To a large extent, Peres, Rabin, and 'Arafat are like the three musketeers—all for one and one for all. Also, there is a certain similarity between the problems Rabin and 'Arafat are facing: They both love a solo game; they both urgently need to expand the basis of their coalition; they both leave empty seats in their "cabinets", each for his own Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]; they both know where this path is leading; and both understand that the less declarations they make, the more they will make progress.

Just like Rabin, 'Arafat understands he will be tested by the way he runs domestic affairs and satisfy individual welfare needs, and not by demagoguery. His real hard work begins now, not as a tourist, but as a resident holding the role of Head of the Autonomy Authority.

It was not a "tired" 'Arafat that we saw in Gaza. It was a calculating and careful 'Arafat who deliberately chose a low-key homecoming. The way he returned was not a "molehill made from a mountain," but a mountain made from a mountain which will, eventually, lead to the

making of the Palestinian state. Starting 1 July, we suddenly have a party at interest, if not a full fledged partner, in this land.

Biran: Cooperation With Palestinian Police 'Adequate'

TA0607082894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Report by correspondent Golan Yokhpaz]

[Text] Speaking at the end of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jericho, Major General Ilan Biran, the Central Command commander, was very satisfied. The security forces who enforced law and order during 'Arafat's visit did a good job, and they deserve our gratitude for that, the general said.

When 'Arafat's eight-hour visit to Jericho was over, Gen. Biran said in an interview with the IDF Radio: We were forced to tackle disturbances by the Jewish settlers as well. Generally speaking, the commander said, Israel Police and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] acted with restraint when dealing with disturbances.

[Begin Biran recording] Unfortunately, we—mainly the police—were obliged to use moderate force in a few cases. The police, and naturally the Army, acted with restraint. Their activity enabled normal life to continue both for the Arab and the Jewish residents, and it made the Palestinians' arrival in Jericho possible. [end recording]

Gen. Biran noted that in an era in which 'Arafat can visit Jericho and the autonomy is in the process of establishing itself, the cooperation between the Palestinian police and the IDF troops in the Palestinian autonomy area in Jericho is adequate. The general added, however, that there are still several weak points which have to be worked on.

[Begin Biran recording] There is cooperation, there is coordination. The situation is adequate but it must improve. There is a number of issues that need to be improved, but in general, the situation is quite all right, quite adequate. We must remember it is a mere newborn. [end recording]

The Central Command commander stressed, at the same time, that the Israeli-Palestinian cooperation is improving with time. The coordination and the requirements of the Israeli-PLO treaty will be carried out to the letter, Biran explained. We are implementing it, but the inadequate points must be fixed as soon as possible.

Defense Elements Rule Out IDF Redeployment in August

TA0207195294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] It has been learned from Jerusalem sources that there is no chance the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will

redeploy in Judea and Samaria in August, as demanded by 'Arafat. Defense elements said that the IDF deployment in major cities depends solely on the date of the elections in the territories, although 'Arafat and Rabin will decide in their upcoming Paris meeting on the date of the transfer of powers.

Beilin Meets UN Secretary General, Returns

TA0207055094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has returned from Washington saying he believes the United States intends to expedite contacts between Israel and Syria. He said this was the purpose of the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher due in the region on the 17th of the month.

Beilin had meetings in Washington with senior State Department officials and also with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. He discussed opening more Israeli field hospitals in African countries, including one in Angola.

Joint Interest Offices Expected To Open With Tunisia

TA0507113494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jul 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] Tunisia may announce its readiness over the next few days to permit the opening of an Israeli interest office in Tunis, and at the same time station a Tunisian representative in Israel.

In contacts held between the two countries in recent days—through Belgian mediation—a proposal was formulated according to which both countries will open interest offices inside the Belgian Embassies in Tunisia and Israel, as a stage toward the establishment of full diplomatic relations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin will leave for Tunis to attend the meetings of the multilateral negotiations' steering committee at the beginning of next week. The intention is to announce the opening of the Israeli interest office in Tunis at that time.

Jerusalem considers this development a significant step as far as Tunisia is concerned. It should be noted that up till now, Israel has opposed a similar proposal that was raised by Morocco. In talks with officials from the Moroccan royal court, Israeli representatives said that Israel expects to establish full diplomatic relations Morocco and will not settle for an interest office. [passage omitted]

Greece's Papandreou To Visit Damascus To Mediate

TA0507080394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600
GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou is due to visit Damascus soon, among other things to try to advance Syrian-Israeli negotiations. Previously, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky tried to mediate, and met with public figures in Jerusalem and Damascus, but his efforts were in vain, our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports. Senior political sources in Jerusalem said that the Syrians prefer U.S. to other mediation.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in the region in two weeks. He will apparently open the Israeli-Jordanian talks and then try to mediate between Jerusalem and Damascus.

Direct Telephone Link With Morocco Inaugurated

TA0507114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900
GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] An official direct telephone link was inaugurated today between Israel and Morocco. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that it is the second direct telephone link with an Arab state, following the one with Egypt. Although it is possible to dial from Israel to other Arab countries, there is no official agreement, and in practice many of them have blocked the connection. Morocco's communication company has reached an agreement with Bezeq which will permit Morocco to use the underwater optic cable Israel laid between the two countries to improve communications between Morocco and south European states.

Peres: Reports on Mediation With Basques Unfounded

TA0307141994 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 3 Jul 94
p 4

[Text] The Spanish ambassador in Israel held an urgent meeting on Friday morning [1 July] with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

At the meeting, the ambassador expressed his government's displeasure with the reports in Israel regarding Israeli mediation in the conflict between the Spanish government and the Basques.

Foreign Minister Peres expressed his regrets to the ambassador, explaining that the reports were unfounded and that Israel would clarify this.

An ITIM correspondent noted that on Thursday [30 June], Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin denied all the reports on this matter.

Ministry Recommends No Tourism to Turkish Cyprus

TA0607061794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500
GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Tourism elements operating trips to Turkish Cyprus reacted angrily to Tourism Ministry director general's announcement advising Israelis to avoid tourism ties with the region. The Tourism Ministry explained its stand by saying that ties with seceding regions, such as the Turkish district of Cyprus, are not customary in the international arena.

Manager of a company operating tours to Turkish Cyprus told our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad that in his view, the Tourism Ministry's stand violates the freedom of occupation principle.

Public Polled on Government, Elections

TA0107194094

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv SHISHI in Hebrew on 1 July carries a 4,000-word report by Eliyahu Hasin on page 1 of the news pages and pages 22 and 23 of the MUSAF supplement on a series of public opinion polls summing up two years of Rabin's government.

"The poll was conducted by the Shelah Institute, under the management of Arye Shelah, on 20-23 June, covering 519 interviewees, representing the entire adult Jewish population of Israel, who were polled by telephone. Maximal margin of error is 4 percent." Unless otherwise noted, all figures given are in percentages, and figures given in brackets are the results of a similar poll conducted by the same institute in June 1993.

"In general, how does the government handle the problems of the State of Israel?"

- very good: 4 (3)
- quite good: 29 (39)
- not so good: 40 (39)
- very bad: 25 (18)."

"Would a right-wing/religious government headed by the Likud, without Labor, handle the country's problems better or worse than the current government?"

- much better: 7 (7)
- better: 23 (16)
- worse: 26 (24)
- much worse: 13 (16)
- the same: 23 (27)."

"How much more do you believe will the current government last?"

- will complete its term [two years]: 67 (59)
- another year: 16 (21)
- only a few more months: 8 (9)."

"If you had the choice, which of the three options of government composition would you prefer for it to continue its term?"

- the current coalition: 20 (29)
- expanding the coalition with parties such as Tzomet, YITUD [Independent and Democratic Israel], and the NRP [National Religious Party]: 38 (25)
- dispersing the Knesset and calling new elections: 40 (40)."

"How do you view the government's performance in promoting the peace process?"

- very successful: 9 (7)
- quite successful: 36 (31)
- quite unsuccessful: 30 (36)
- very unsuccessful: 21 (22)."

"In general, considering all the advantages and disadvantages of the agreements with the PLO, are you supportive of or opposed to the agreements?"

- very supportive: 12
- quite supportive: 41
- quite opposed: 17
- very opposed: 27."

"Will the current government eventually succeed in attaining additional agreements with the Palestinians and peace arrangements with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan?"

- certain it will succeed: 9
- believe it will succeed: 50
- believe it will not succeed: 24
- certain it will not succeed: 9."

"Is the government keeping its promise to change the order of national priorities?"

- to a large extent: 4 (5)
- to a certain extent: 38 (36)
- only slightly: 35 (32)
- not at all: 20 (24)."

"How does Yitzhaq Rabin perform as prime minister?"

- very good: 12 (11)
- quite good: 40 (40)
- not so good: 31 (30)
- very bad 15 (17)."

"How does Yitzhaq Rabin perform as Labor chairman?"

- very good: 7
- quite good: 30
- not so good: 38
- very bad: 13."

"If direct elections for prime minister were held today, who would you vote for?"

	June 1994	February 1994	November 1993

Yitzhaq Rabin	36	45	37
Binyamin Netanyahu	23	23	21
Refa'el Eytan	17	16	23
no preference	24	16	19"

"If Hayim Ramon joins the premiership race, who would you vote for?"

- Rabin: 22
- Ramon: 21
- Netanyahu: 18
- Eytan: 14
- no preference/reply: 25."

"If the Knesset elections were held today, who would you vote for? [results in number of Knesset seats]"

	Ramon out	Ramon in	1992 elections
Labor	40	31	44
Likud	36	31	32
Meretz	10	—	12
Tzomet	11	10	8
SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]	5	5	6
NRP	6	6	6
United Torah Jewry	4	4	4
Moledei	2	2	3
HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and the Arab parties	5	5	5
YITUD	less than 1	less than 1	—
Ramon-Meretz	—	25	—
total	120	120	120"

The poll examined the trends regarding two expected options: The currently existing parties are the only ones competing, or a joint Ramon-Meretz party joins the race."

Government Said Threatened by Religious Alliance

TA0407115994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jul 94 p B1

[Commentary by Nadav Shragay: "Ultrazealous for Jerusalem"]

[Excerpts] The animosity toward Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that was conveyed by the tens of thousands of demonstrators in Jerusalem's Zion Square two days ago was almost as intense as the hatred and loathing for Yasir 'Arafat. That demonstration made it easier to understand the reason for the letter sent by Aharon

Domb, member of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, to the prime minister cautioning him about a political assassination attempt either against him or against some of his ministers.

"Death to 'Arafat" and "Rabin is a Traitor" became a pair of synonymous slogans in the Jerusalem square last Saturday night. The crowd's thunderous booing each time the prime minister's name was mentioned testified better than a thousand words that this public had had enough of Yitzhaq Rabin, the same man who has made every effort to fuel their hatred by subjecting them to insults, generalizations, and the hardest kind of affront—his dismissal of the beliefs and feelings of about half the Jewish population of Israel.

Also, there was terrible wrath in that square, a kind of wrath that is generated by a sense of helplessness, a wrath at the great deception and the perfidy committed by the Labor government against the public. But in the deeper layers of the "Battle in Defense of Jerusalem," the protest was channeled to new-old pathways, different from anything we have encountered in the "right-wing protest" to date, pathways that may lead to unknown destinations.

In 1967, Teddy Kollek took advantage of a great historic moment, and for about a quarter of a century, he was pictured as the builder and expander of Jerusalem. Ehud Olmert became the Jerusalem mayor at an equally historic moment, at a moment when the wheel of history is about to spin in the direction of redivision—and not only by the Palestinians, but also by the Rabin-Peres-Aloni government.

In 1967, an Israeli song delighted about returning "to the water wells, the market, and the square," and every word was heart-felt. In 1994, Israelis sing, "Goodbye to Gaza," but what the government is really negotiating over is Jerusalem. Teddy Kollek was the "prime minister of Jerusalem" for nearly three decades, and yet no one ever said a word whenever he exceeded his mayoral authority. Ehud Olmert became mayor in elections about which none other than Yitzhaq Rabin said that their significance was not municipal, but national.

Today Olmert acts as "the prime minister of Jerusalem" because there is every indication that the Government of Israel is striding toward concessions in this sphere, too. Now, as in the past, the "Battle in Defense of Jerusalem" is riddled with religious components, and the hundreds of thousands of Likud constituents who preferred the World Cup battles to this one were replaced by masses of ultra-Orthodox protesters, who joined the knitted-yarmulke-wearing public [identified with the National Religious Party]. Their struggle is focused on the Old City of Jerusalem and the Western Wall. [passage omitted]

In 1994, the Western Wall is the symbol of the struggle against Palestinian nationalism, which not only sanctified the Temple Mount mosques as holy sites, but used them as a political-national tool.

Although 'Arafat did not come to Temple Mount this time, the publicly given basic consent for such a visit, as well as the actual consent granted clandestinely by the Government of Israel, has shifted a street struggle against the left-wing government from the knitted-yarmulke wearers' exclusive domain to a joint front with a large ultra-Orthodox public, resulting in a vastly expanded circles of active opposition to government moves. The ultra-Orthodox public that participated in the right-wing protest activities of recent days, did so without their rabbis' blessing. Neither the spiritual leaders of Gur and Wiznitz nor Rabbi Schach signed the flyers that were pasted on walls in the Me'a She'arim neighborhood last Friday, although they did not go out of their way to protest the partnership. Precisely as it happened during the Jerusalem municipal election campaign about six months ago, the ultra-Orthodox awakening started in the street. The rabbis may give their blessing later. Olmert's victory over Teddy Kollek in 1993 was facilitated by the ultra-Orthodox vote. Today he is doing it again in what the right wing calls the "Battle in Defense of Jerusalem," and if he does it the third time in two years, he will be able to improve Binyamin Netanyahu's prospects of winning the premiership struggle against Yitzhaq Rabin.

Until that happens—if it does—Netanyahu must wake up to reality and try to improve his standing with his constituency. He will gain nothing by sitting on the fence, with one eye to the center and another to the right. Leaders usually emerge in crises, or by seizing a historic opportunity. While the Likud is in the midst of a crisis and experiencing disorientation, history is taking place in front of its very eyes, and inside that history, Netanyahu is gradually fading away—for the time being at least. He does not have long to come to his senses. The Meridor-Begin-Olmert trio is breathing down his neck, and they will not hesitate to challenge his non-leadership if they conclude that led by Netanyahu, their chances of returning to power are nil.

Knesset Resolution on Resignation Said Meaningless

TA0607055894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Last night the Knesset opposition managed to pass a resolution stating that it was the Knesset decision that the prime minister must resign in the wake of the state comptroller's report. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir notes that the resolution has no practical significance, because the only legal way to topple a government is through a motion of no confidence.

The resolution, which was proposed by Mikha'el Eytan from the Likud, was endorsed late a night by a majority of 10 against one, after it transpired that no coalition Knesset members, besides session speaker Salih Tarif, were present in the plenum hall. [passage omitted]

New Cabinet Secretary Appointed

TA0407110894 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Jul 94 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] Shmu'el Hollander, the legal advisor to the Prime Minister's Office, was appointed the new cabinet secretary at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

Hollander replaces Elyaqim Rubinstein, who resigned several months ago. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Accuses Rabin of 'Verbal Hooliganism'

TA0407155494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has said that the Likud rejects and opposes any demonstrative acts that are illegal or outside the democratic framework; at the same time, however, the Likud rejects the prime minister's attempt to paint the majority in the colors of a fringe minority. The prime minister's verbal hooliganism against half the public, Netanyahu asserted, is far worse than the hooliganism of a minority. The Likud chairman was speaking at the Knesset during a debate on the no-confidence motions submitted against the government.

Knesset Member [MK] Zvulun Hammer from the NRP [National Religious Party] said that the government is anesthetizing the people and promoting negotiations with 'Arafat through tacit understandings, covert agreements, and secret documents. Tzomet MK Moshe Peled said in his speech that the Rabin government is composed of nonentities who have forsaken national values.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who replied on behalf of the government, accused the right-wing leaders of inflaming passions and inciting the public in the streets, without any regard for democratic constraints.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Knesset plenum is expected to vote in approximately one hour, and the government has a guaranteed majority.

The YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] faction has decided to permit its members to vote as they see fit.

Ramon Elected Histadrut Secretary, Gives Guidelines

TA0607080794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jul 94 p A1

[ITIM report]

[Excerpts] The 17th Histadrut labor federation Conference ended late last night after electing Hayim Ramon next Histadrut secretary general. The conference elected its institutions, according to its original agenda, after a five-hour delay due to an injunction the Jerusalem District Court issued upon a request by the Likud

Histadrut faction. The injunction was eventually canceled after the RAM [Ramon-Meretz] and Labor lists appealed it.

Before the injunction was issued, the 1,501 Conference members elected the 501 Histadrut Council members. After the legal proceeding was over, the Council elected the 122 Executive Committee members. The names of the Likud representatives on this body were not given, and they will be listed only after the court rules on this matter. The Executive Committee elected Knesset Member [MK] Ran Kohen as Histadrut Presidium chairman, and MK Hayim Ramon as next secretary general. [passage omitted]

In his address before the Conference, Ramon outlined the guidelines he will follow as Histadrut leader: "Everything I said in the past on moving the Histadrut institutions to Jerusalem was not lip service. I intend to keep this promise. There is a battle over Jerusalem, and there is consensus about its future as the united Israeli capital. The Histadrut will start operating in Jerusalem in the near future," Ramon said. [passage omitted]

Ramon further stressed the importance of the national health bill that was recently passed by the Knesset, and noted planned cooperation with the government. "We will help the government," Ramon promised. At the end of his speech, Ramon asked for "several months" to fulfill his promises.

Spokesman Denies Helicopter Landing on Temple Mount

TA0507194294 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1106 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Issued by Eric Bar-Chen, police foreign press liaison officer, on 5 July]

[Text] In response to rumors that Nabil Sha'th has landed on the Temple Mount in a helicopter, the police spokesman states categorically that there is no truth to the rumors. Furthermore, no helicopter has landed in the Jerusalem area since yesterday (Monday), 4 July 94, evening.

Prominent Arab MK Dies in Car Accident Near Jericho

TA0507171994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Tawfiq Zayyad, who is also mayor of Nazareth, was killed this afternoon in a car accident near Mishor Adumim while on his way from Jericho to Jerusalem. Zayyad was killed on the spot after his car collided head on with a mini van driving in the opposite direction. Zayyad leaves behind him a wife and four children. Tawfiq Zayyad, the poet and folklorist, was 65 years old. During the last 20 years he served as mayor of Nazareth and a HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] MK. Our correspondent Yo'av

Aviv reports that a large crowd is congregating around Zayyad's house. The police are currently investigating the circumstances of the accident in which MK Zayyad was killed. This was reported by our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky, who added that a huge traffic jam has resulted from the accident in the Mishor Adumim area.

Shohat Says Market Not in Line With Economic Trend

TA0507054094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Interview with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat by anchor Ya'aqov Eylon in Shohat's Jerusalem office—live]

[Text] [Eylon] Over the past few weeks, you have refrained from addressing yourself to issues related to the stock exchange. Does the fact that you are with us on the air this evening—and we are very glad about it—indicate that the situation is grave?

[Shohat] No. You requested an interview, and I consented. I will in no way make recommendations regarding the stock exchange. I will say—and I have said this before—that according to every piece of data I have, all of which will be presented at the upcoming cabinet session when we discuss the budget, the Israeli economy is in good shape. It is a growing economy in which unemployment is declining, exports are rising, and more investments are being made. Therefore, what is happening in the stock exchange runs counter to the natural direction of the economy.

[Eylon] How does this happen? Should the top economic echelons, which you head, not be doing something so that the stock exchange—where many people hold their savings—will stabilize and align itself with the trend about which you are speaking?

[Shohat] No. We are not allowed to either get directly involved or give advice, and rightfully so. The stock exchange is where the capital meets the demands; there is supply, and people buy. Our duty is to strengthen the economy and see to it that investments are made and the product grows. This is happening.

[Eylon] But, Mr. Shohat, you could do something about inflation, perhaps see to it that the interest rate is reduced, although the Bank of Israel has been acting against your better judgment.

[Shohat] Yes, I believed that the interest rates should not have been increased by 0.5 percent last week. I still think so. I spoke to the governor of the Bank of Israel but, to my regret, he acted on his authority and raised the interest rate.

We are also aware of the issue of inflation, but it seems to me that when you measure the Israeli economy in every aspect, using every criteria and looking at it from any angle, it is a very good economy. I believe that the capital market cannot run counter to the economy for a long time.

[Eylon] But is it not part of your job as finance minister or the duty of the government to support the stock exchange when it is crashing, contrary to your forecasts?

[Shohat] Absolutely not. If we start to support the stock exchange, we will be twisting the buyers' and sellers' judgment. After all, we know that the bank stock crisis was caused by the very fact that government financial bodies intervened.

[Eylon] It seems, however, that the buyers and sellers do not believe you.

[Shohat] I believe there is a certain crisis. I am not ignoring the drops in the market, but there are many reasons for this, some of which, I believe, are not economic in nature. The bottom line is that I also read the figures, look at the screens, and know that the stock exchange has fallen 40 percent. At the same time, we should remember how high the market rose in the preceding year or 18 months. This is typical of our stock exchange: It climbs big and falls big.

[Eylon] I thank you for joining us this evening, after we have been asking you for a long time. Thank you.

[Shohat] Thank you.

Data Shows Unemployment Claims in Decline

TA0407113694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] The number of job seekers on the market is declining. National Insurance Institute [NII] data shows that the number of claims for unemployment money decreased by 7.4 percent last month, down to 67,500. NII Director Yosef Tamir told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that during the second quarter of 1994 the number of claims for unemployment money decreased by 2.7 percent in comparison with the first quarter.

First PRC Container Ship Arrives at Haifa Port

TA0407112994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] The first shipping line between the PRC and Israel: The (Zuang Ha) container ship arrived at Haifa port today, and our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that ships on this line will call at Israeli ports every 10 days. This refers to direct voyages which last about 13 days.

**'Source': 'Arafat Disregard for King
'Unacceptable'***JN0507195394 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 1*

[Text] A responsible Jordanian source, who asked not to be named, has expressed disappointment with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat for not extending thanks to King Husayn in his speech last Friday [1 July] in Gaza City. 'Arafat thanked Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for their support of the PLO.

The source said 'Arafat's disregard for King Husayn reflects an unbalanced attitude and is unacceptable from a Jordanian viewpoint.

Regarding the call made by 'Arafat for a confederation with Jordan, the Jordanian source said this call has no basis at all. He pointed out that King Husayn has repeatedly asked 'Arafat not to talk about a confederation with Jordan, since this call lacks objectivity and does not rest on a permanent political position. This is especially true after recent developments have shown that the Palestinian leadership is determined to move away from Jordan in its political attitudes.

'Arafat's Visit to Autonomy Seen as 'Symbolic'*JN0507172894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jul 94 pp 1, 21*

[Editorial: "An Occasion for Hope"]

[Text] The Palestinian president's visit to the self-rule areas is an occasion for hope and anticipated joy, because the time for true joy has not come yet. This is evident from the fact that supporters of this visit are reserved in their support and that those opposed are reserved their opposition of the visit, except through their pens, tongues, or silence.

This visit has acquired a symbolic historic importance due to Israeli considerations and not because of Arab and Palestinian reasons. These considerations are:

First, the visit is a symbolic Israeli decision to drop the Zionist saying that Palestine is a land without a people.

Second, it is a symbolic Israeli admission that the Arabs of Palestine actually "own" part of "the land of Israel" even if this part comprises one eighth of their historic homeland.

Third, the visit is symbolic of a "Palestinian curbing" of the greater Israel expansionist scheme.

Fourth, it is an Israeli admission of the existence of a "Palestinian entity" that is independent from Israel and enjoys international recognition.

Fifth, the visit is symbolic of Israeli submission to the existence of a "national leadership" for the Arabs of Palestine, which was established "abroad" and enjoys large-scale international recognition.

Sixth, it reveals Zionist racism, which insists on maintaining Israel as a religious state for Jews only and in which there is no room for pluralism.

Seventh, the visit is a symbolic Israeli admission of being unable to "administer the areas" and unable to control people who are determined to achieve liberation and freedom.

Eighth, it is a symbol of the possibility of using the papers of the current peace process to rally the Arabs of Palestine around the slogan of developing self-rule into a state, and to increase division among Jewish fundamentalists on one hand and those who believe in withdrawing from areas with a dense Arab population to guarantee Israel's security on the other.

All these considerations remain symbolic and that is the way the Israeli leadership wants them. It wants self-rule to be the end of the road and considers it a security solution that it has imposed on its supporters and opposition on both the Arab and Israeli sides. However, the Palestinians want the self-rule to be a first step in the 1,000-mile hike toward an independent state.

The Palestinians want to develop the symbols into a reality on the ground. They are gaining hope from the fact that not too long ago Israel used to consider even the raising of the Palestinian national flag taboo.

We, along with the Palestinians, hope that their symbolic gains will turn into a reality and that the Palestinian president's visit to the self-rule areas will become a historic symbol and an occasion for the real joy that is inevitably coming.

Al-Majali Meets With Palestinian Investors*JN0507191294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jul 94*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received in his office today the chairman and members of the Board of Directors of the Palestine Development and Investment Company. Discussions dealt with the company's strategy and objectives, as well as the projects it plans to implement. Details are in the following report:

In a press statement following the meeting, Finance Minister Sami Qammuh said that the prime minister blessed the company's efforts and strategy and presented his advice on a number of issues dealing with the company's work. Qammuh noted that the prime minister supported the concept of cooperation in the fields requested by the company, especially cooperation with Jordan's Oil Refinery Company and coordination between the Amman money market and the money market that will be established in the self-rule area, as well as cooperation in establishing tourism projects and activating the role of the private sector in the field of joint investments.

The finance minister said he hoped that this company will be the beginning of the private sector's achievements, noting that investment will yield a positive result and a basic role in building the Palestinian economy. He stressed the importance of cooperation in the economic field, especially since this is the era of big economic blocs. As the markets grow bigger, the more the economic projects that nurture them will become more capable, profitable, and successful.

For his part, Dr. Kamal al-Sha'ir, the chairman of the Palestine Development and Investment Company, said that the aim of this meeting was to listen to the prime minister's advice with regard to the company's work and strategy and to explain the company's objectives and working plans and the programs and projects it intends to implement. He said that this company is a private holding company that was established about two months ago with a capital of \$200 million. He added that this company is shared by Jordanians, Palestinian, and Arab economists and businessmen, noting that the company expects to increase its capital during the next few years.

He added that the company took the necessary steps and measures to establish companies in Gaza, Jericho, and the West Bank in all sectors. They intend to establish a real estate company in Gaza, an industrial company based in Nabulus, and a tourism company based in Jerusalem. He said that the company's permanent headquarters will be in Amman, noting that its activities and projects will be implemented through economic integration to serve the interest of the Jordanian and Palestinian people. He said: We hope that the company's investments will reach about \$1 billion during the next five years.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, minister of information, and acting minister of planning; Dr. Rima Khalaf, minister of industry and trade; Engineer Nabil al-Sarraf, member of the company's Board of Directors and secretary; and Sabih al-Masri, member of the company's Board of Directors.

Joint Company Targets W. Bank, Gaza

JN0607075594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jul 94, p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—A Jordanian-Palestinian holding company, which was established almost two months ago at a capital of \$200 million, hopes to be able to attract \$1 billion worth of Jordanian, Palestinian and Arab investments over the next five years, according to the company's chairman of the Board of Directors Kamal al-Sha'ir.

Dr. al-Sha'ir made the statement following a meeting with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, who praised the company's efforts and its future plans.

The company, known as the Palestine Company for Development and Investment, plans to establish new concerns in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr. al-Majali encouraged the company's plans, according to Finance Minister Sami Qammuh who attended the meeting along with Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and members of the company's board of directors.

In a statement, Mr. Qammuh said the premier welcomed cooperation between the company and the Jordan Oil Refinery Company and Amman financial Market.

He said Dr. al-Majali also welcomed the joint coordination in setting up tourism projects and attracting private sector investments.

The minister stressed the importance of economic cooperation, particularly at this time when large economic blocs are being established. "Whenever the markets are bigger, the economic projects will be bigger, more profitable and successful," Mr. Qammuh said.

Member of the company's board Nabil Saraf said the company plans to establish industrial and tourism projects covering all parts of the occupied territories.

The company's permanent headquarters will be in Amman, but it will open a real estate company in Gaza, an industrial company in Nabulus and a tourism company in Jerusalem, according to Dr. al-Sha'ir.

Ba'th Party Chief Confers With Iraqi Delegation

JN0207121794 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Amman, July 2 (INA)—Member of Iraq's command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur conferred in Amman today with Secretary of Higher Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party in Jordan, Tasyri al-Himsi.

During the meeting Mr. 'Abd-al-Ghafur explained latest developments on the world arena towards the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq, putting stress on necessity of mobilizing the Arab mass capabilities for building pressure on the Security Council to apply Article 22 of Resolution 687, especially Iraq had fulfilled all its legal commitments.

He also explained the recent measures made in favour of easing suffering of the Iraqi people and the significance of cementing steadfastness for aborting the last chapter of the anti-Arab enemies.

Parties Issue Statement on Meeting

JN0407131094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Jul 94 p 3

[Excerpt] The leaders of both the Islamic Action Front [IAF] and the Pan-Arab Action Front have saluted the Iraqi people's steadfastness against the aggression and

the effects of the embargo. They highly praised the Iraqi people's efforts in the reconstruction process that heralds a comprehensive Iraqi resurgence.

In a statement issued on the meeting their leaders' held with the Iraqi Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation currently visiting Jordan, the two parties stressed their commitment to serious work through the party follow-up committee and with the good forces in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world and the free men of the world to lift the unjust embargo on Iraq out of their belief that work should continue until this objective is achieved. [passage omitted]

Delegation Concludes Visit

JN0507140794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Jul 94 p 26

[Excerpt] An Iraqi Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation has concluded its visit to Jordan. The visit was made at the invitation of several Jordanian parties to discuss the unjust blockade against Iraq. The delegation was led by 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur and included Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi and Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, members of the Regional Command.

A Jordanian party committee was formed to promote the lifting of the Iraq embargo. The committee elected Deputy Hamzah Mansur as rapporteur. It held a meeting yesterday evening during which it discussed an integral program of action in the local, Arab, and international arenas. The committee is scheduled to hold a news conference this afternoon at the headquarters of the Islamic Action Front in which it will announce its plan of action, which will be carried out by the participating parties. AL-DUSTUR has previously published details of the plan, which includes launching a fund-raising campaign and observing a week for solidarity with Iraq. The committee has also decided to send a delegation to Turkey to meet with the Turkish Welfare Party.

The Iraqi delegation will leave Amman today for its country. [passage omitted]

Editorial: Time To End Aden Siege

JN0107073994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Let This Bitter War Stop for Good"]

[Text] The Security Council adopted a new resolution, No. 931, at dawn yesterday. The resolution calls for an immediate cease-fire in Yemen. At the same time, representatives of the belligerents met in the Russian capital and agreed on a cease-fire.

Nevertheless, reports continue to come in on new developments in the fighting, which has not eased or stopped. The siege of Aden and its inhabitants has been intensifying over the past three weeks, while fire is raging in the Ma'rib oil fields and the Aden refinery in a war that, it seems, will not stop before wiping out all signs of life in the south.

It is truly painful and tragic that the will to fight and destroy overshadows all other political will, and that diplomatic efforts and initiatives are ignored in a manner that shows an intention to play for time and hide the practices and fire that are going on on the ground.

If the international community has been unable or unwilling to calm the situation and extinguish the fire lit by the brothers, the hope was that the will for dialogue and accord would come from within the Yemenis themselves. No noble idea can win and no sublime objective can be realized through killing innocent people, destroying all signs of life, sabotaging the facilities and economic establishments, and returning parts of Arab Yemen to what it used to be decades ago.

We in Arab Jordan have always supported unity, the one unified Yemen, and the achievements realized by the Yemenis under their free will and agreement. At the same time, we have supported democracy and dialogue, and resorting to the charters and accords that have been reached and signed. We have stood against the use of force and the wasting of blood and capabilities, and against mobilizing armies and launching military offensives between the sons of the same people.

It is time for the suffering of the fraternal Yemeni people to come to an end. It is time for Aden and other cities to be liberated from horror, siege, and affliction. It is time for the guns to be silenced for good, and for all Yemeni talent, prudence, intellect to be devoted to healing wounds rather than playing for time and inflicting more destruction. This necessitates a vivid and positive manner in dealing with the new Security Council resolution as soon as possible. This is much better than following a policy saying: We are free to destroy our country.

Official Reiterates Refusal To Join Multilaterals

NC0507182594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 5 Jul (MENA)—Today the Lebanese Government received an official invitation to participate in the meetings of the follow-up committee of the multilateral peace talks, due to be held in Tunis on 12 and 13 July.

The invitation was conveyed to Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, secretary general of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, by Tunisian Ambassador Mohamed Hedi Belkhouja, U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley, and Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev. The Lebanese official reiterated to the three ambassadors Lebanon's reservations and refusal to participate in the multilateral talks unless progress is made in the bilateral talks.

The Tunisian ambassador said after the meeting that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry secretary general explained Lebanon's principled stand not to take part in these negotiations because no substantial progress has been made in the Lebanese-Israeli bilateral negotiations.

Russian Ambassador Ilichev expressed his confidence that Lebanon will join the multilateral talks because such talks provide an opportunity for effective, direct participation in establishing the bases for the new regional order in various spheres, including development, environmental protection, the solution of the refugee problem, and arms control. He said Lebanon's participation is merely a matter of time and emphasized that his country does not agree on treating the negotiations tracks as main and secondary tracks. He noted that the current contacts aim to define the priorities for movement on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

For his part, U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley confirmed that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the region as part of the efforts to achieve tangible progress in the peace process. He denied he has any information on whether the U.S. secretary will visit Lebanon during this new tour.

Buwayz Opposes Pressure for Unilateral Peace Deal

NC0307132594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stressed that Lebanon is going through a very critical stage. He said that foreign policy should be looked at from a national perspective and not from the angle of settling personal scores.

Buwayz added that the achievements of the Palestinian and Jordanian negotiations do not constitute a serious state of peace, noting that Israeli maneuvers have (?delayed) the negotiations.

In an interview with AL-DIYAR, Buwayz stressed that there will be no peace without Syria and Lebanon. He also stressed that pressure on Lebanon to move toward a unilateral solution will be futile and will not serve the peace process.

Christopher Tour, Remarks to Senate Criticized

NC0507094494 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 1 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Why and With What is Christopher Coming?"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is coming to the region on 17 July. This raises many questions as to why he is coming. During the past few weeks there were many questions and a great deal of conjecturing in Washington and throughout Middle Eastern capitals: Will the man stay in the State Department or not? Will he travel to the region or not after escorting President Clinton on his European tour? When he promised to come to the region sometime "before the end of the summer" there was a big question mark amid the stalemate on the Syrian-Israeli course and the storm building up around it: Why does he not come now? Because right now he can do without a new failure in his task; he is still burdened with failure and problems elsewhere because he practices a policy of diplomacy without action to prompt the parties to the settlement to act to guarantee success. He wants to suggest that the United States does not need a settlement more than the regional parties to the conflict and that Israel does not compel Christopher to set his watch according to Israel's time. It knows that the priority for the U.S. Administration is to help and protect Rabin.

It has become clear that the man is maintaining his position. President Clinton stopped at changes among his aides in the White House after numerous experiences confirmed to him that appointing personal friends to positions of power was a catastrophe. Talk in Washington claims that the problem lies in the President himself, because he hesitates over decisionmaking, is inexperienced in foreign policy, and is a stickler for detail and discussion until someone switches off the light in the room. This is the situation of Leon Panetta, the expert who knows Congress very well and who has taken the place of his friend Thomas McLarty as White House chief of Staff. He believes that David Gergen's place is alongside Christopher as his special adviser on foreign affairs. But Christopher's arrival in the region does not stop all these questions and does not provide all the right answers. It raises two questions: Why is he coming and what is he coming with?

Is he coming because there is a possibility of progress, even if it is just a few centimeters? Or is he coming to show interest in action on the Syrian-Israeli track along the lines of going round in circles, while action occurs on the Jordanian-Israeli track? Is he coming to close the road before what Shim'on Peres called the activities "of

third parties other than the United States" along the lines of the negotiations with Damascus "but without results" or is he coming to open the road before an American role that goes beyond that of postman—a role determined by Rabin for Washington? What is he coming with? New American proposals that Damascus is waiting for and along with which it is seeking a serious Israeli proposal starting with full withdrawal from the Golan? Is he coming with an empty attache case, which he will try to fill in the region with stances and proposals that he has said he is waiting for?

The U.S. secretary's answer to these questions and others before the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee was that his trip formed part of the Administration's objective to establish comprehensive peace while guaranteeing Israel's security and its complete merger in the Middle East's political and economic life. He is discussing new and major progress between Jordan and Israel and "efforts on the Syrian-Israeli track and other tracks." He said: "We are much closer than many parties believe toward erecting a permanent structure for peace in the Middle East."

It is important for the American mediator to reveal that settlement is much closer than people believe. But it is more important for the settlement to solve the problems of the Middle East and the Arabs, whose land is occupied, with Israel. It is not to solve Israel's problem in the Middle East, as Christopher's speech before the Senate Committee, which is very pro-Israeli, suggested. There is no such thing as a "permanent structure for peace" if the settlement is not just and comprehensive. According to the Israeli understanding and timing there is no just and comprehensive settlement. The American role, which is very welcome, becomes extremely dangerous if it is restricted to providing an umbrella for protecting the Israeli notion of a settlement. So how can the road to "merging Israel in the life of the region" be a "merging" of the region in Israeli policies? What does Christopher expect if he does not give the region what it is waiting for?

Al-Hirawi Discusses Peace Process, 'Awn, Economy

NC0507194194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1818 GMT 5
Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 5 Jul (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has declared that Lebanon is determined to continue the peace process despite the difficulties and obstacles that Israel is placing in the path of the negotiations. He said he does not want Israel to have any pretext to claim that the Arab parties were the first to break off the talks.

Al-Hirawi criticized Israel's "divide and rule" policy and its attempt to conclude separate agreements with some Arab parties. He pointed out that Lebanon joined the negotiations on the strength of a national decision and in coordination with the other Arab parties and will not sign a separate peace agreement.

The Lebanese president stressed that UN Security Council Resolution 425 must be implemented, pointing out three enduring positions that Lebanon will not abandon. They are: Israel must withdraw from the south; Lebanon will refrain from signing separate peace deals with Israel; and there will be guarantees of security on the border with Israel only after an Israeli withdrawal.

President al-Hirawi rejected the comparison between the Israeli occupation troops, who occupy 12 percent of Lebanese territory, and the Syrian forces, who are in Lebanon on the basis of a Lebanese Government request. He said that these forces will remain as long as Lebanon needs them.

President al-Hirawi's remarks came during an open dialogue this evening with about 150 university students and 50 professors from various Lebanese universities. The dialogue focused on new political, economic, and educational issues.

Al-Hirawi affirmed that none of the members of the political parties are permitted to bear arms and that even the national Resistance is not allowed to exhibit any show of force outside the context of its operations against the enemy. He stressed that the government fully supports the legitimate right of the Resistance to fight the occupiers.

President al-Hirawi remarked that despite the amnesty law the judicial authorities are ready to reopen assassination dossiers whenever they receive a notification to this effect.

On another issue, he revealed that in the early days of his presidency he had contacts that lasted for 11 months with former Lebanese Army Commander General Michel 'Awn with the aim of including him as a member of his government. He said that Gen. 'Awn turned down the offer because he had certain tendencies which eventually turned out to be un-Lebanese tendencies.

Al-Hirawi denied that there are disagreements among the government leaders over basic issues in the national interest or over the negotiations. He pointed out, however, that sometimes there are divergent opinions over some issues, but added that such divergent views are at the heart of the country's democratic system.

Commenting on the media issue, al-Hirawi stressed that he cares about freedom of expression and democracy. He mentioned the amendments introduced to the Media Law, which governs newspapers, and said that the Chamber of Deputies is ready to discuss the bill governing the audio-visual media now that the Government has referred it to the Chamber. Al-Hirawi referred to the fact that dozens of new media organs were established in the past few years and said they need reorganization and relicensing, especially as there are now 56 private television stations and more than 180 private radios.

Speaking about the economy, al-Hirawi said that new and sound economic foundations are being laid. Noting

that Lebanon loses approximately \$1 billion a year to the foreign labor force, he called on Lebanese citizens to do all the country's work by themselves. He also said that illegal earnings, which used to amount to about \$4 billion annually, including the earnings that the militias obtained from foreign countries and narcotic crops, have been terminated.

President al-Hirawi urged that educational curricula in Lebanon be developed to allow them to catch up to the world, after having fallen behind for years. He said this is necessary to confront the challenges that regional peace will bring.

Fadlallah Attacks U.S., Israeli Peace Policies

NC3006032094 Beirut AL-AHD in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 7

[Excerpts] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has affirmed that the United States and "Israel" do not want peace. They want capitulation. What they want is for "Israel" to take everything and leave the crumbs for the Arabs.

He believes that "Israel" does not need to get the green light from the United States to carry out its acts of aggression because U.S. policy and Israeli policy are one and the same. [passage omitted]

In his Friday sermon, delivered at the Imam Rida mosque, the Ayatollah said: In this new Islamic year, we are facing great challenges. Each of us has to think about the issues of Muslims around the world. We realize that the forces of global arrogance, headed by the United States and its European allies, met recently in their NATO session to take a stand against the Muslims. We are targeted. Some people claim that there are some moderates among the Muslims. These are the men of the West. As for the extremists, they are the ones who confuse the state of peace in the world.

Fadlallah added: Moderation for the United States means that you do not talk to them about the things they steal from your resources. You should not go against their will in all the things with which they threaten your security. You have to behave like a slave to them. They are the ones who indoctrinate us with concepts of extremism or moderation, and there are many among us who consume their words.

He said: They talk about the mujahidin of the heroic intifadah in Palestine as terrorists. They talk about the Islamic resistance as a terrorist resistance. The United States, "Israel", and some people in Europe talk about terrorism? What kind of logic is this?

He adds: In Palestine, there is occupied land. This is the terminology they use. As far as we are concerned, all of Palestine is occupied. According to UN laws, this land is occupied. What are the Palestinians there doing? They want to expel the occupier from their land. How can a

revolutionary be a terrorist, while the occupier is civilized? The United States refuses to answer this question. What are the mujahidin in Lebanon doing, in the south, in the Western al-Biq'a? They are working to liberate their land. The world admits that there is an occupied part in Lebanon. How can those who are working to expel the occupiers be called terrorists, while "Israel" is civilized? The United States talks about exchange of violence and the U.S. ambassador talks in the same language. How can we equate the victim with the criminal? This can only be done in the U.S. logic.

He added: They claim that there are peace negotiations that will liberate your land. However, we have the experience of the Palestinians with the Israelis as an example. Have the Palestinians succeeded in liberating their land? Will they be able to liberate their land in five years' time? What have the Palestinians gained? They have gained self-rule—a situation more akin to governing a country that is their big prison. What sort of negotiations are these? Why is "Israel" being rigid in its negotiations with Syria, freezing them at one point in time and moving them at another? Because Syria does not want to make concessions as the Palestinians did?

He affirmed: What the Americans and the Israelis want is not peace, but capitulation. What they want is a peace that gives "Israel" everything it wants. All the Arabs will have left are the crumbs. In this way, "Israel" will have a distinguished role in the U.S. plans for peace in the region.

His eminence Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah went on to say: "Therefore we feel derision when the United States speaks about human rights and peoples' freedom because it is pursuing the whole world and pressuring it. It is now pursuing North Korea to pressure it. The United States prevented the Security Council from meeting when Lebanon lodged a complaint. It prevented the Council from meeting because it did not want "Israel" condemned even though "Israel" talks about its massacres as a hunter talks about his prey."

He added: "They are now talking about Syria and the raid they carried out. They are saying that the raid was a message to Syria to make it known that "Israel" is the strongest and that it will suffer a lot if it does not go along with the peace talks according to the wishes of "Israel". Lubrani is saying that Lebanon must expect a mobile war if it wants to sponsor the resistance."

His eminence continued: "They are making threats. The U.S. ambassador is saying: We are not giving "Israel" the green light. They do not need to do so because U.S. policy is an Israeli one and the U.S. administration is a Jewish one controlled by Jewish interests."

He said: "There is an onslaught of world arrogance led by the United States. Many European countries and Russia are involved in this onslaught against the entire Islamic and Arab worlds. There is a plan to ensure a major role for "Israel" in the Arab and Islamic world. We have seen Israel moving about in the Arab Maghreb

following U.S. pressures and now see the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, which is just a step toward penetrating the Arab position. Therefore we have to freeze our political differences and unite, even if only politically, so as to face the challenges. Hence, we must freeze our national and ethnic differences. If we live according to the spirit of the nation and of Islam and the spirituality of the prophet when he told his companions "Do not be pained because God is with us", then we can have power. We must plan, be patient, and persevere."

Concluding his sermon, he said: "Many people want you to fail, to be frightened, and to forget Islam. But God says to you: (Verily man is in loss, except such as have Faith, and do righteous deeds, and join together in the mutual teaching of Truth, and of Patience and Constancy.) [Koranic verse] [passage omitted]"

Hizballah Ends Confrontation With Government

PM2906155994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jun 94 p3

[Report by Muhammad Shuqayr: "Why Has Hizballah Decided to Abandon Confrontation With the Government?"]

[Text] Beirut—Whoever watched the performance of the Hizballah deputies at the general debate session which ended yesterday must have come away with the impression that relations between them and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri were gradually approaching "normalization." That runs contrary to what these relations were in the past when they were governed by tension, resentment, and accusations against the government and the prime minister by Hizballah regardless of whether there was an occasion or not for such accusations.

At past parliamentary sessions, Hizballah's deputies used to head the hawks at al-Najmah Square [seat of parliament] along with Deputies Najah Wakim and Zahir al-Khatib [nationalists]. They let no political occasion pass without launching the fiercest media campaigns against the government and without criticizing the government's position on the peace talks despite the coordination between Syria and Lebanon.

Political circles are trying to discover the causes of the change in Hizballah's way of dealing with the government and to find out which of the two decided to move to the camp of the other. It was noticeable in the debate session that, as usual, Hizballah's deputies intensified their campaign against U.S. policy. One of them even called for severance of relations with it and for the deportation from Lebanon of Mark Hambley, the ambassador of the "Great Satan" in Beirut. But they made a point of praising the executive authority [cabinet] for its emphatic rejection of the pressures, ultimatums, and warning messages Lebanon has been receiving because of its position on the negotiations and its reaction to the Israeli escalation. Furthermore, they, for the

first time, applauded Prime Minister al-Hariri for the statement he made at the beginning of the debate session.

In the past, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri used to arrange meetings in his office between Prime Minister al-Hariri and Hizballah's deputies on the sidelines of the the parliamentary sessions, out of a desire to calm tempers, improve the atmosphere, and soften their attacks. Now, holding an expeditious meeting between Hizballah's leaders and the prime minister at the latter's home in Quraytim is no longer a problem. According to people who closely followed the meeting held between the prime minister and Hizballah Deputies Muhammad Fanish, 'Ali 'Ammar, and Muhammad Ra'd, the meeting "was fruitful and they stopped aiming their arrows at the executive authority."

Speaker Birri has been quoted as saying that he recently received word from Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah informing him of his desire to hold a meeting between Hizballah and the prime minister, and that he personally welcomed that initiative and saw it as a contribution to the relaxation between the two sides. Speaker Birri did not give any more details.

Sources close to both sides say that "the opening of channels between Prime Minister al-Hariri and Hizballah's leadership has begun to cause some probably unintentional embarrassment. For instance, one of Hizballah's deputies who used to contact Speaker Birri's office in al-Najmah Square or at his home in Barbur to talk to him, once asked his secretary to put him through to his excellency. The secretary put him through to the chamber's speaker. After initial greetings, the deputy fell silent for a while for he in fact wanted to speak to the prime minister. The secretary, instead of contacting Quraytim [prime minister's home], had contacted Barbur thinking that that was what he wanted."

Damascus has not been out of the picture of contacts between al-Hariri and the Hizballah deputies. That is confirmed by a Lebanese politician who, citing a senior Syrian official, says: "Why all this astonishment that a party like Hizballah should establish relations with the government, having attacked it on every occasion. Is there a problem about holding a meeting between them? The government, has been able—and this is at the very heart of its responsibilities—to avoid continuing to be the target of Hizballah's attacks, thanks to the wise policy it has followed in dealing with the recent Israeli aggression on 'Ayn Kawkab and to its refusal to submit to the pressures exerted to force it to change its position on the negotiations."

The same Lebanese politician adds that Tehran "was not surprised by the new channels between the prime minister and Hizballah and has been behaving in a way indicating that it has following that transformation. People acquainted with the talks held by Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, with

government officials during his visit to Beirut, emphasize that the Iranian leadership realized the seriousness of the situation and urged careful, reasonable, and realistic behavior because it felt that a distancing of Hizballah from the state would only feed the campaigns aimed at isolating it before it is targeted by Washington and Tel Aviv."

He further says: "Hizballah now needs protection for the resistance card, and Damascus and Tehran feel that only the Lebanese state can provide such protection and that any untimely escalation that ignores local and regional circumstances would be detrimental to that card which should not be given up without a price which should, at least, be a guarantee of Israeli withdrawal from the south in implementation of resolution 425."

He adds that Hizballah now needs to be under the state's wing, otherwise, it would not, if it was singled out [for attack], get the sympathy it got after the aggression against the 'Ayn Kawkab base. Hizballah has, therefore, decided to get closer to the state on the basis of the statement made by a senior official that the government has not altered or changed its position on the negotiations nor its view of the resistance and that it firmly stands alongside Syria. Hizballah's leadership made an urgent reassessment dictated by the new developments which forced it to adapt to the situation. The fact that Prime Minister al-Hariri's statement at the debate session did not bring anything new justified Hizballah's decision to reconsider its calculations and reconsider its relations which had been almost severed with the executive authority.

In the light of all that, it seems that Hizballah has decided to refrain from opening fire on the government for regional considerations and calculations, as if it was submitting its credentials at the debate session as a conciliatory and peaceful party that takes all possibilities into consideration and does not mind considering changing its positions away from the antigovernment slogans and provocative campaigns.

Fighting in South Intensifies; 2 IDF Soldiers Killed

SLA Positions Shelled

NC0407094694 *Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic*
0930 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] According to our military correspondent, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in al-Ghizlan, Sujud, Kafr Hunah, and al-Rayhan have been under artillery shelling from the terrorists' positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the western al-Biqa' for more than half an hour now. The correspondent adds that SLA and Israeli artillery are firing back at these positions to silence them.

Israeli Air Force Raids Hizballah Bases

TA0407131694 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew* 1300
GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Israel Air Force jets attacked Hizballah bases in (Jabal Rafi') and (Jabal 'Iskan) in south Lebanon this afternoon. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported that all our aircraft returned safely to base.

Fierce exchanges of fire between terrorists and the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] were reported earlier, after the terrorists attacked three outposts near Sujud. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the exchanges of fire are continuing but have been abating over the past few hours.

Air Raids, Shelling Reported

NC0407181194 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 1530
GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Israeli warplanes continued their raids against the south this afternoon. They carried out the first raid at 1430 today. A second raid followed against Jabal al-Rafi' at 1445, during which air-to-surface missiles were fired [words indistinct].

Al-Mansuri, neighboring villages in the central sector, the outskirts of Sujud and al-Rayhan, and the road leading to Bi'r Kallas came under 120-mm, 155-mm, and 175-mm artillery fire from the positions of the occupation forces in al-Zaffatah at noon today.

The deserted army barracks in al-Nabatiyah came under artillery fire this morning. The shelling also extended to the public road of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Kafr Tibnit, and the heights of Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly Mlita, al-Luwayzah, Jabal Safi, and the Nab' al-Safi basin. The eastern outskirts of Jarju' and the southern outskirts of 'Arab Salim came under machine-gun fire.

The Islamic Resistance carried out an attack against an occupation forces position in Jabal al-Rayhan this morning, destroying the position, wounding scores of soldiers, and burning three Merkava tanks, according to a statement issued by the resistance at noon today.

The resistance also announced that a second group shelled the occupation forces positions in Sujud, al-Zaffatah, 'Aramtha, and Bi'r Kallas. The Voice of the South radio, organ of the border militia, has confirmed this attack.

A third group attacked a training field of the Israeli position in al-Rayhan, inflicting some casualties.

AFP has cited a UN officer in the south as saying that two Israeli soldiers were killed today and two others were wounded in the operation launched by the resistance against the occupation forces position in al-Rayhan this morning.

Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah since noon today.

Hizballah Guerrillas Kill IDF Soldiers

NC0407142494 Paris AFP in English 1247 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, July 4 (AFP)—Iranian-backed Hizballah guerrillas killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded at least one other in an attack Monday in south Lebanon, police said.

An earlier toll said one soldier was killed and another wounded when guerrillas attacked the al-Rayhan position in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon.

Israeli TV Reports on Attack

TA0407185394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Report by Moti 'Eden]

[Excerpts] It has just been released that in the exchanges of fire in Lebanon today, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier Shma'ya Danokh from Ashqelon was killed. His family has been notified. The time of the funeral will be announced later on. There were heavy exchanges of fire throughout the day between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery and the terrorists. Moti 'Eden reports:

[Begin 'Eden recording] The attack by Hizballah terrorists started around 1200 [0900 GMT]. The terrorists fired simultaneously at eight IDF and SLA posts in the eastern sector, on the edge of the security zone in Lebanon. This was the most severe artillery attack in the security zone in the past eight months. Soldiers stationed at posts in Sujud, al-Rayhan, and (al-Razlan) came under fire from Katyushas, rocket-propelled grenades, and machine guns. A Golani Brigade soldier—a signal operator who rushed to operate the radio—was badly injured in the attack, and another soldier was slightly wounded. [passage omitted]

The wounded soldier later died of his wounds. An Air Force helicopter, covered by fighter jets, entered the area to evacuate the other casualty. He was treated at the border and was taken from there to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. [end recording]

PLFP, DFLP Claim Killings

NC0507064694 Paris AFP in English 0034 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Damascus, July 5 (AFP)—Two hard-line Palestinian groups claimed responsibility late Monday [4 July] for an incident in Lebanon in which two Israeli soldiers were killed and three injured.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of George Habash and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] of Nayif Hawatimah said a joint commando had blown up an Israeli patrol in southern Lebanon by placing explosives on the road.

Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army militia said Sunday that the Israelis were killed and injured when their armoured vehicle smashed into an electricity pylon.

The high-tension wires fell on the vehicle, causing a fatal electric shock, the militia said.

Areas Reportedly Under IDF Shelling

NC0607161894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] We received a report a short time ago saying that areas of Mlita, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi in Iqlim al-Tuffah have been coming under fierce artillery shelling from the Israeli occupation forces' positions in Tallat al-Zaffatah since 1800 today. The southern part of [word indistinct] town is also coming under heavy machine-gun fire.

Tension continued in the southern areas today. The hills of 'Ali al-Tahir position, the nearby forests, and the eastern part of Kafr Rumman township came under artillery shelling from the occupation forces' positions in al-Zaffatah.

Israeli Combat Activities Continue

NC0607170594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 6 Jul (MENA)—Israeli warplanes continued their sorties over south Lebanon this afternoon. A formation of 10 planes flew at low altitude over Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah and staged a number of mock raids. The anti-aircraft guns of the Lebanese Army deployed in the south engaged these planes.

As part of the Israeli attacks, Mazra'at al-Hamra' to the south of al-Nabatiyah town came under mortar fire this afternoon from the occupation forces' positions in Qal'at al-Shaqif. The shelling caused only material damage.

Meanwhile, the villages and towns of al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas have been suffering from water shortages for several days now as a result of the shelling of the Nab' al-Tasah pumping station in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The shelling stopped it from supplying the area and water has been wasted. A number of attempts to repair the damage to the pumps failed due to the station's proximity to the occupied area and the occupation forces' continued sniper fire.

The International Committee of the Red Cross also failed in its contacts with the occupation forces, which refused to allow maintenance teams to come to the pumping station.

On the other hand, Shaykh Nabil Qawuq, Hizballah's official in south Lebanon, stressed that the party's

Islamic resistance will continue its struggle against the occupation forces. He told the Israeli people to expect more of their soldiers to die in Lebanon. He said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the occupied border strip yesterday will not help raise the morale of his soldiers, which is collapsing under the resistance blows.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud Visits

Makes Statement

JN0407160094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus at 1600 today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus and the embassy staff.

His Highness Prince al-Faysal told the Syrian News Agency, SANA, that his visit was part of the continued consultation between the two fraternal countries. He clarified that the main aim of his visit was to coordinate the upcoming meeting in Kuwait of the Damascus Declaration member states' foreign ministers. He also pointed out that during the meeting, issues of great importance would be discussed regarding cooperation among the Damascus Declaration member states, as well as other political issues of interest to the Arab homeland.

Meets With al-Asad, Departs

JN0507074394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad last night received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the al-Rawdah Palace. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed to the president a message from Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. Conversation during the meeting revolved around developments in the Arab arena and the forthcoming meeting of the representatives of the Damascus Declaration member states.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Damascus tonight after a brief visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry staff, and the Saudi and Kuwaiti ambassadors in Damascus.

Saudi Arabia To Lend Money for Power Station

NC0207202994 Paris AFP in English 1952 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] Damascus, July 2 (AFP)—The Saudi Development Fund (SDF) is to make a loan of 200 million dollars to Syria for the construction of a power station, the fund said Saturday.

The power station at Aleppo, 350 kilometres (217 miles) north of Damascus, will have a capacity of 1000 megawatts.

Syrian Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i signed an agreement Saturday with fund vice president Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Saqir.

The fund said in a statement it had previously granted Syria 175 million dollars in loans for various development projects.

Al-Saqir reported "the Saudi government's wish to give all possible aid to Syria so it can overcome its electrical energy difficulties."

Before the beginning of this year electricity supplies were limited to three hours a day in the capital and more in other Syrian regions.

Damascus Radio Reports Loan

JN0307074094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Excerpt] A \$200-million loan agreement was signed today [2 July] at the State Planning Commission between the Syrian Government and the Saudi Development Fund. The loan will contribute to financing the Aleppo-al-Bukhariyah power station with a total capacity of 1,000 megawatts. [passage omitted]

Damascus Radio Reports on 'Arafat Arrival in Jericho

JN0507140094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Occupied Palestine—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Jericho this morning aboard an Egyptian helicopter escorted by two Israeli military helicopters. While Palestinian officials expected approximately 250,000 citizens to arrive from the occupied West Bank to welcome 'Arafat, the number of those who actually attended, according to AFP, did not exceed 3,000. Commenting on this, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the limited self-rule Palestinian authority, told journalists that the Israeli Army, which occupies the remainder of the West Bank, has prevented Palestinians from arriving in large numbers in Jericho. However, in statements to AFP, an Israeli Army spokesman denied these reports. He said that the Israeli Army did all that is necessary to enable the Palestinians to travel freely to Jericho.

Last night, Brigadier General Isma'il Jabr, commander of the police of the limited Palestinian self-rule, met with Major General (Elan Biran), the commander of the central region in the Israeli Army, within the framework of coordination between the Israeli Army and the self-rule authority. Brig. Gen. Jabr said that with the help of the Israeli Army, preparations were made to maintain security during 'Arafat's visit to Jericho today. Radio l'Orient's correspondent in the occupied territories said that at best estimates, the number of those who showed up to welcome 'Arafat did not exceed 10,000. This has been considered by observers a bitter disappointment after Palestinian officials expected the number amount to at least 250,000. The correspondent says that

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observers have attributed this to the apparent indifference of the citizens of the occupied West Bank toward the visit, especially since nothing has changed for them. The correspondent added that the limited number of those who showed up embittered 'Arafat himself, who, in his speech, held the Israeli side responsible and said the Israeli measures were a violation of agreements. [passage omitted]

Paper: Israel Attacks Lebanon To Pressure U.S.

JN0507085394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "The South: A Painful Spot For The Israelis," AL-BA'TH says: The Zionist leadership acknowledges that southern Lebanon is a painful spot and that the southern quagmire has drowned Israeli soldiers in its mud and drowned the Israeli strategy in labyrinths which are bothering Israel and its aggression leaders. Despite the Zionist leadership's acknowledgement of this fact, the Israeli rulers are not deterred, rather they escalate their aggression against the Lebanese.

The paper adds: While the Lebanese in the South are defending their territory, Israel is claiming that its daily terrorism against the Lebanese territory is a kind of self-defense. The paper wonders how can an occupier continue to murder and occupy while the victim is not allowed to defend his own territory and rights?

The paper stresses that the battle against the Israeli occupation will not stop as long as the occupation remains and that the work for sake of peace cannot continue on the basis of Israeli conditions. The paper says: Israel must either end its occupation, or south Lebanon will remain a quagmire of death for its soldiers.

The paper adds: Every time the region approaches the atmosphere of detente, Israel finds a chance to spoil that detente by staging an aggression against Lebanon or by committing a massacre, similar to the carnage at the Hebron Mosque.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The aggression against south Lebanon is part of the Israeli rulers' practices, not only to pressure Lebanon, but also to pressure the United States before its secretary of state starts a tour to the region. This confirms that Israel is not interested in peace, and that it seeks to impose its own conditions and not rid itself from the quagmire of death into which it drove itself.

Afghanistan

Roundup of Government-Opposition Clashes 2-3 Jul

Seventy-Five Killed in Kabul

LD0207103694 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Jul 94*

[Text] The forces belonging to the president and prime minister of Afghanistan, using heavy weapons, have been involved in clashes in Kabul since the early hours of this morning.

A Central News Unit report from Kabul mentions: So far, dozens of rockets and mortar-shells have hit various parts of the capital and many areas of the city have been targeted during aerial attacks by General Dostam's forces.

According to the same report, government fighter-bombers today continued to bomb the areas controlled by the Hekmatyar forces in southern and southeastern Kabul.

Hospital sources in Kabul say that 75 people were killed during clashes in Kabul yesterday.

Militia Attacks Foiled

LD0207173394 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jul 94*

[Text] The militia attacks launched this morning in Seya Sang and Deh Khodaydad regions were pushed back by the Islamic army.

According to the BIA report the Karmal-Golboddin-Dostam militia embarked on a series of attacks on the Islamic army's positions this morning, but were forced to flee after sustaining 10 dead. The report adds the militia made futile attempts this morning in the areas of Seya Sang and Deh Khodaydad, seized several days ago by the Islamic army. To avenge their defeats, the militia this morning attacked by firing rockets at residential regions of Kabul. As a result, four citizens of Kabul were martyred and another 14 were injured. This morning around 0900 hours [0430 GMT], when the city was very busy, an aircraft of militia dropped bombs on the crowded regions of Kabul, but fortunately caused no loss of life.

Golboddin Militia Unit Defects

LD0207182294 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jul 94*

[Excerpts] Reports coming from west of Kabul say a commander of Golboddin based in Chahar Dehi, together with his 50 men, came over to the side of the Islamic army. A militia depot situated in Khairabad was set on fire as a result of artillery blows by the Islamic army.

A high-ranking source of the Armed Forces concerning the Golboddin militia attacks said to the BIA that Golboddin is not a political nor a military man. He does not have even the ability of an ordinary soldier. This is why he sends his men unwisely to fight and causes them to die. [passage omitted]

The two attacks, one after the other, on the Islamic army's positions in Kabul caused Golboddin to sustain thousands dead and wounded. The losses of the Islamic army in the recent conquests do not exceed 20 men. Golboddin is still continuing to make past mistakes. The army officer said: We have captured the areas we wanted and abandoned unimportant locations. [words indistinct]

Planes Attack Golboddin Base

LD0207183794 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jul 94*

[Text] The aircraft of the Islamic army's air force attacked today the concentration points of the Golboddin-Dostam base in Reshkhora area. A security source reported that today's bombing caused the militia heavy losses of life and enormous material losses.

According to another report, Hedayat, deputy to a notorious commander of Golboddin, nicknamed Zardad, died as a result of wounds received two days ago by the crushing blows of the Islamic army. Although he had been transferred to Jalalabad and given intensive treatment, he did not make it. The source added that Hedayat was one of the murdering and notorious militiamen of Golboddin who is responsible for most crimes committed by the Zardad band.

Dostam Base Destroyed in Balkh

LD0207191594 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jul 94*

[Text] A military operation carried out in Balkh Province by the mujahedin and the Islamic army resulted in two tanks and 12 military vehicles of the Dostam militia being destroyed. Lieutenant General Ata Mohammad Khan, deputy to the general amir of Balkh Province told BIA that this operation was carried out today by the artillery of the Islamic army in Rahman Kotal, Balkh Province. The operation resulted in the destruction of a militia base. The report adds that 12 militiamen were killed and another 22 were wounded in the operation.

According to another report from Balkh Province, eight Dostam militiamen were killed two days ago when their Jeep hit a mine.

Kabul 'Relatively Quiet'

LD0307171194 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jul 94*

[Excerpts] Golboddin-Dostam's militia suffered heavy casualties during the course of their failed attacks yesterday.

Quoting a source in the country's armed forces, the Bakhtar Information Agency reports: As a result of the militia's failed attacks yesterday and because the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic state defended their relevant positions confidently, at least 35 militia members were killed and 50 others were injured. Those killed were mainly Zardad's men, a Golboddin militia commander. They were killed yesterday in some parts of Sia Sang and Qala-e Ahmad Khan.

According to another report, yesterday an aircraft belonging to Dostam's militia transferred 30 bodies of his militia members and 50 of their injured to Mazar-e Sharif. [passage omitted]

Some reports indicate that Golboddin, in order to compensate for his defeats in the recent fighting, refuses to pay his commanders. This has prompted Golboddin's militia to sell their weapons and ammunition.

According to another report, the situation in Kabul city was relatively quite today. However, sporadic clashes and exchanges of light weapons took place on the front line this afternoon that were continuing this evening.

Kayhan Militia General Killed

LD0307185994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jul 94

[Text] As a result of clashes that took place yesterday at Durah-e Haratan between the Dostam and Kayhan militias, a high-ranking general belonging to Kayhan was killed.

According to reports reaching the Bakhtar Information Agency from Balkh Province, Dostam's militia wanted to disarm [word indistinct] Division attached to Kayhan's militia, but faced strong resistance. Heavy clashes took place between them. As a result of these clashes, which lasted several hours, General Mohammad Yusuf, commander of the aforementioned division, and a number of his men were killed, and a large number of men from both sides were injured. The division was captured by Dostam's men, and the rest of Kayhan's men were disarmed and arrested.

The clashes and conflicts between the Dostam and Kayhan militias continue in the north. Some time ago, a supply convoy of Dostam's militia was robbed by Kayhan's men and its guards were killed as it was passing through a region under the control of Kayhan's militia.

Defense Spokesman on Pakistan-Uzbekistan 'Plots'

94AE0124A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 94 p 8

[Report on interview with Defense Ministry spokesman Yunes Qanuni by 'Abdallah al-Hajj in Jeddah; date not given: "Afghan Defense Ministry Spokesman Accuses Pakistan and Uzbekistan of Plotting To Divide His Country"]

[Text] The director general of the Afghan Ministry of Defense, Yunes Qanuni, has accused Pakistan and Uzbekistan of planning to divide up Afghanistan into a number of petty states that would be subject to the domination of the two of them. Qanuni, who also holds the position of political adviser to the previous Afghan minister of defense, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, said, in an interview with AL-HAYAH in Jeddah, that President Rabbani wishes to hand over power to the Council of Solution and Settlement [Shura-e Ahl-e Hal wa 'Aqd], and that efforts soon will be undertaken to have this council hold a meeting. He said that Rabbani would not yield to military pressures exerted by his enemies, Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, and the leader of the Uzbek militias, 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. He made it clear that Rabbani's position is based on his wish to avoid the occurrence of a constitutional vacuum in the country.

In his interview, Qanuni revealed the existence of a mood of "dissatisfaction, which has reached the level of grumbling" among members of the Hezb-e Eslami, which is led by Hekmatyar. He added that this has impelled a number of people with close ties to Hekmatyar to join Rabbani's government as a form of protest against the prime minister's alliance with the communists. He said that the alliance between the members of the Hezb-e Eslami and the Afghan communists will not live long. He went on to say that the battles being waged throughout Afghanistan, as well as around Kabul, although they seem to be a civil war being fought within Afghanistan, are actually not a civil war, because the battles are being waged in the interests of Afghanistan's neighboring states.

Concerning the nature of the war going on now, Qanuni said: "The strategic war in Afghanistan is over. What is going on now in Kabul is a type of war of provocation. When the rebel front met with failure during the three previous phases [of the war], it then wanted to maintain a continuation of the state of war in the country in order that it be said that the period of Rabbani's presidency was characterized by civil war. In addition to this, there are regional forces that are pressuring Dostam and Hekmatyar to continue the fighting in order to give legitimacy to their efforts to undertake a military coup in Afghanistan. Because of this, we have set up an effective line of defense for the capital city in order to thwart such plans, and we have blockaded the two areas that are under the control of the rebel forces. More than 80 attempts have been made to break through this blockade, but so far all of them have failed. Likewise, attempts to tie down the forces of the Islamic Army by means of opening the Kabul front in order to force them to withdraw their forces from the northern part of the country have failed. This was the reason for the latest round of fighting."

Concerning the issue of whether or not President Rabbani will relinquish power, he said: "The issue is the opposite of what they are saying. President Rabbani agreed to sacrifice his position after all the leaders had chosen him as the country's president for a period of two

years. In order to avoid bloodshed, he gave up a period of six months. More than once he has declared that he does not favor prolonging one's period of rule by means of using violence and force and that he is prepared to transfer power to the council that represents the will of the people. President Rabbani has suggested calling a meeting of the council representing the will of the people, and then he would relinquish power to them and have them choose a new president and elect a new government. But when the rebel front violated the Jalalabad agreement, according to which Rabbani was chosen as president of Afghanistan for a period of 18 months or two years, this led to a decision to resort to the Solution and Settlement Council and have them give their opinion."

Concerning some people's interest in nominating General Mohammad Esma'il Khan and Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud as president of Afghanistan, he said: "I do not think that either General Esma'il Khan or Engineer Mas'ud favors this idea. In my opinion, the problem in Afghanistan is not a matter of the people we have. The problem is mainly one of the regime we have. The basic problem is that some of the organizations do not accept the agreements that are signed and they do not respect or adhere to them. Even if either Esma'il Khan or Mas'ud were president in place of President Rabbani, this would not solve the problem. Adherence to the agreements will not happen unless there is the formation of an advisory council representing the will of the people, which alone has the right to choose and appoint its leaders. No other person or body has the right to assume the responsibility for doing this either in the name of, or on behalf of, the people. I believe that everything that is being stirred up concerning this matter is merely rumors, the purpose of which is to create division among brothers and sow disunity among the field commanders, especially since they have legendary influence over the Afghan people. Neither Mas'ud nor Khan aspires to the presidency of Afghanistan."

Concerning the possibility of the alliance between Dostam and Hekmatyar continuing, Qanuni said: "I believe that this alliance is not a harmonious one. It is a difficult job to bring Moslems and communists together. There are motives that led to the alliance between Dostam and Hekmatyar. From the beginning we have thought that this alliance would not last long. If it were not for the strong outside pressures being exerted upon these two men, their alliance would have split apart months ago. One of the indications that it will not last long is the fact that the elite among the young members of the Hezb-e Eslami do not accept the alliance with the communist Dostam. Most of the important members of the executive council inside the party have gone over to the side of the government. Our brother Hekmatyar did not consult the leaders of his party when he decided to undertake the step of entering into an alliance with the communists. This is what was said by our brother Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqqad, the vice president of the Hezb-e Eslami. Both Hekmatyar and Dostam have been

the losers in this alliance because each of them believed that he could jump up on the shoulders of the other and grab power, but they both failed to achieve this. Lately we have seen bloody clashes occurring between them in more than one location."

Concerning rumors that have been spread about dividing Afghanistan into a number of petty states, Qanuni said: "This was one of the objectives of the rebel front. In fact, agreements have been reached between some neighboring nations to divide Afghanistan into Pakistani and Uzbekistani areas of influence. As you know, since the nation of Afghanistan contains a number of tribes and ethnic groups, we consider that it is both our Islamic duty and governmental duty to ward off such plots against our country, and so far we have [always] demonstrated that this is our position. If Mas'ud did not have forces dealing with Dostam's forces in the north, the plan to have the north split off from the rest of the country would have succeeded. We believe that it is our duty to preserve the unity of Afghanistan in the face of all attempts to divide it and sinister ideas associated with this position."

UN Closes Mission in Herat Due to Bombing

NC0507213494 Paris AFP in English 2050 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] Kabul, July 5 (AFP)—The United Nations has closed down its mission at Herat in western Afghanistan and evacuated all foreign personnel to neighbouring Iran, sources here said Tuesday.

The evacuation was prompted by jet attacks on Herat by the Uzbek air force of general 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, they said.

A Dostam plane bombed a military garrison in Herat on Monday, killing 10 people and wounding 10 others, according to the sources.

Preparations for an evacuation were made following an earlier bombardment by the Uzbek air force on June 25, in which 20 people were killed and 80 others were wounded. The casualties were mostly civilians.

Danish staff supporting a public hospital in Herat also left Monday, flying to Pakistan, the sources said. The UN personnel crossed overland to Iran.

Analysts here said the attacks by Dostam appeared to be aimed at sabotaging planned peace talks, for which several provincial governors have already gathered in Herat.

It was not known whether Afghan president Burhanoddin Rabbani and his rival Gulboddin Hekmatyar, ex-prime minister and chief of Hezb-i-Eslami, had sent their delegations to Herat.

Meanwhile, Kabul was quiet Tuesday, although officials here reported three bombing raids by Rabbani's jets on Hekmatyar's Charasiab headquarters south of Kabul.

The relative calm raised hopes for a visit to Kabul by the secretary-general of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Hamid Al-Gabid, who has been meeting representatives of Afghan factions in Pakistan.

Bangladesh

Islamic Fundamentalists, Opponents Clash

Arms Banned After Clash

BK2806090794 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT
28 Jun 94

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, June 28 (AFP)—Bangladesh has outlawed indefinitely carrying arms and ammunition following clashes Monday between Muslim fundamentalists and opponents which left scores injured.

The ban was to avert a possible "showdown" Thursday during a general strike called by fundamentalists demanding punishment for fugitive feminist writer Taslima Nasreen, accused of blaspheming Islam.

The fundamentalists also want blasphemy laws enacted to punish Nasreen and a ban on several "anti-Islamic" newspapers.

Nasreen, 32, a doctor-turned-writer, has been in hiding since a local court issued an arrest warrant early this month for "outraging the religious feelings of Muslims" in remarks she made about Islam's holy book, the Koran.

Press reports said she was seeking asylum in the United States.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner A. N. Hossain said in a statement Tuesday that the arms ban was ordered because of the growing number of activists carrying weapons and to reassure an increasingly alarmed public.

On Monday police had to use batons and tear gas to break up running street battles between fundamentalists and their opponents.

The fundamentalists' strike call has provoked clashes since the weekend.

More rallies were planned for later Tuesday and police were on alert.

One political analyst said extremist groups were using the present crisis to "gain a foothold in state power." He said extremist groups, with the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami already in parliament, were more organized than their rivals.

Mufti Maulana Fazlul Haque, a vocal Islamic leader, said Tuesday "no more politics of prayers, we will now go to Bangabhaban (presidential palace)."

Another leader, quoted by the pro-Islamic daily INQILAB, said: "We will no more give blood to defend the country, but will take blood ... This country will live as an Islamic country."

The weekly DHAKA COURIER responded: Islam "accepts no insult lying down, but Islam doesn't go looking for blood to soil either."

Secular groups and political parties along with a section of the press have pledged to foil the strike. They have accused Islamic groups of using religion to achieve their goals of destroying democracy and aiming at state power.

"The activities of these groups are aimed at fanning communalism" in Bangladesh, said Kazi Aref Ahmed, president of the left-wing Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

Kamal Hossain, chief of the Democratic Forum and one of the framers of the country's constitution, said the defeated forces of 1971 were conspiring to endanger independence and sovereignty.

"This is the time to give them a final blow," he said.

Most secular groups have accused the government of patronising the fundamentalists.

The government has so far not responded to the charges.

Predominantly Muslim Bangladesh's original constitution advocated secularism and banned religion-based parties. But the constitution was later amended.

Secularism was replaced by the words "Bismillah Hir Rahmanir Rahim" or "In the name of Allah" and a ban on religious parties lifted by slain president Ziaur Rahman, the husband of current premier Khaleda Zia.

160 Injured in More Clashes

BK3006152194 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT
30 Jun 94

[Text] DHAKA, June 30 (AFP)—One activist was killed and 160 injured Thursday in clashes between Islamic fundamentalists and secular rivals during a nationwide general strike in Bangladesh, police and witnesses said.

Police in eastern Kishoreganj district said a 16-year-old boy, possibly a pro-fundamentalist activist, was killed and five were injured in a gun battle with police during the stoppage.

Across Bangladesh, some 155 people were injured in clashes between the rival groups, as well as with police, during the stoppage, the first called by fundamentalist groups on religious grounds since this South Asian nation's independence in 1971.

The strike was called by fundamentalist groups to demand punishment of Bangladeshi fugitive feminist writer Taslima Nasreen for allegedly criticising Islam's holy book—the Koran. She denies the allegations.

Most people remained indoors even after the strike ended, although some vehicles were seen on the roads.

Witnesses said home-made bombs exploded and both sides hurled stones. Sporadic gun shots were also fired.

Despite strong security, running street battles were reported in Dhaka's downtown Purana Paltan district, Maghbazar and near the Dhaka University campus.

Police used batons and tear gas in central Dhaka, besides using hot coloured water spray to beat back militant fundamentalists after they hurled bombs at police, injuring one officer, witnesses said.

Security was tightened in Dhaka and other districts.

Police arrested one fundamentalist with a bomb. They pushed rivals away in opposite directions to avoid any major confrontation, witnesses said.

At least 100 people were reportedly injured in clashes between rival groups in Sirajganj, Pabna, Narayanganj, Bogra and Khulna districts. Unconfirmed reports said rivals clashed in some other districts.

Other groups—backed by the main opposition Awami League—called a counter strike to protest rising fundamentalism and the trial of fundamentalists for crimes allegedly committed during the independence war.

The fundamentalists are also demanding the incorporation of a blasphemy law in the constitution and a ban on several dailies they consider "anti-Islamic."

The government has not supported any strikes, and official sources said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was at the defence forces office in Dhaka Cantonment.

The Moslem extremists, who came out in force in most Bangladeshi districts, tore and burned copies of the mass circulation Janakantha daily, which they want banned for supposedly being "anti-Islamic," witnesses said.

The United News of Bangladesh news agency reported that the group also attacked the office Thursday, the second this month, as well as damaging taxis carrying journalists.

One of the editors of the daily is in jail and three others have been released on bail after being charged on grounds similar to Nasreen.

Newspaper vendors told AFP they were not selling the daily in most areas, fearing attack. Some covered it with pro-Islamic newspapers.

Five workers of the Purbani magazine, owned by a pro-Islamic publishing group, and one employee of the opposition Banglar bani newspaper were injured overnight in bomb attacks, media sources said.

The 32-year-old writer at the centre of the new Islamic campaign has been in hiding since a court issued an

arrest warrant for "outraging" Moslem feeling. She has a bounty of 3,750 dollars on her head offered by two radical groups.

The US Information Service said, in a statement, that Washington was "distributed by repeated calls for violence against Dr. Nasreen, including the offer for her death." [sentence as received]

But it added that US authorities respected all faiths and took "no position" on Nasreen's writings.

The PROBE news agency, in an opinion poll released Thursday, said 64 percent of the 5,000 Bangladeshis surveyed would support a ban on religion-based groups.

Iran

Arrests, Allegations Made in Shrine Bombings

Jannati Blames Saddam for Mashhad Bombing

LD0107141494 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1056 GMT 1 Jul 94*

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati at Tehran University on 1 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Another issue I should mention here is the Mashhad tragedy [bomb blast on 20 June] What I also briefly referred to in the first sermon is that, in any case, we have outside enemies, our revolution can be threatened, and it is vulnerable. Our foreign enemies have seriously girded their loins to annihilate the principles of the revolution and break its bones. They are serious in their resolve. They understand what the revolution has done and what it is capable of doing. They understand that the world oppressed, deprived, and Muslim revolutionaries are looking up to this land. They know that, as far as this banner is upheld, the struggle against the oppressor will continue and tyranny will be resisted. If this banner drops one day, then all the [oppressed] people will be disappointed. They [enemies] know and understand all that.

So they do not waste time and they do anything they can. An example of what they have done is the economic situation and the issue of oil. They have created such a situation to reduce our income while our country is undergoing a period of reconstruction. Another example is the issue of the sanctions, another is the creation of factors that contribute to inflation and other problems in our daily lives. Those are some of the acts they resort to. Some other acts they resort to, are mischievous acts, such as that [in Mashhad].

It is not so difficult to analyze the Mashhad tragedy—even though the lack of full understanding on behalf of some may result in their incapability to make correct analysis or they may reach wrong conclusions. Or some others may become influenced by the negative propaganda of the aliens. But the issue is quite clear. There

should be no doubt that the perpetrator was a hypocrite [monafeq—pejorative term for a member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq opposition group] and that was assumed from the beginning. The assumption was then confirmed following the research which was carried out by our intelligence organizations. They found some good clues some of which have been revealed and some which have not.

And then what? Did they decide for themselves, or were they assigned by someone else? That is fairly clear. It is clear to me, and also to several people who possess certain information, that the matter originated in Iraq, that Saddam [Husayn] made them do it. Not that it was forced on them and they did not want to themselves; they did want to. But it was an assignment, meaning if you want to stay here [in Iraq] you should not be idle.

I will say this in parentheses: The most abject government in the world today is the Iraqi Government. Because its conquering enemy has come and nestled in its home and is officially present everywhere and watches everything. What degradation is higher than that? And a part of it has been almost dismembered and its strength has been minimized and cut to pieces. It is barely alive and the Americans are keeping it alive and do not deem it fitting for the people to deliver the coup de grace.

And more abject than the Iraqi Government is that mini-group [Mojahedin-e Khalq]—the most abject mini-group in the world is that mini-group. They have come under their [Iraqi] protection and are serving them. They have no credibility in the world and everybody considers them as war criminals. Their belligerent nature has become apparent to everyone. No one dares to defend them in any way. And they [Mojahedin-e Khalq] have come under their [Iraqi] protection and have sought refuge there and give them any kind of service.

Saddam is not the type of person who has any order and method. He gives whatever orders he wishes, rough and harsh orders. Then if his orders are not followed there will be executions. He orders them to spy, to place bombs, create explosions, and many similar tasks, to go here, to go there, to the Kurds, or to this and that. And they [Mojahedin-e Khalq] are soldiers, ready to serve and standing to attention. What degradation is higher than that?

They reached this conclusion: something had to be done in Iran, and it had to make a lot of noise. They chose the pure shrine of the eighth imam, peace be upon him. [passage omitted]

That tragedy took place. Naturally, no-one was going to take responsibility for this, because no-one would say well done to whoever accepted responsibility for this crime. In fact, they would be told off, they would be condemned. One could not expect the hypocrites who did this to come forward and say yes it was us! So how did they go about explaining this? They started to give various explanations. It is obvious America and Israel

are happy, and who knows, they may have had a hand in this incident—as some people believe. It is obvious Europe is happy. All the enemies of Islam are happy. It is obvious they are all happy. So how did they go about creating problems for us?

Their aim was to create problems, to create fear, to use this to cause disunity among the Muslims—by one lot blaming the other, thereby creating a sense of revenge and the first lot targeting the other. They wanted to do exactly the same thing as over the Mecca mosque incident. This was their aim, to create problems. Now they want to make use of this incident, they must offer an explanation. So they have come up with this rubbish we have been hearing. They have said: It was they themselves [Iranian Government]. This is truly amazing! To solve their own problems [as heard]. This sort of explanation comes from the minds of people who know nothing about humanity, mercy, or kindness. [passage omitted]

This explanation comes from a criminal, Hitler-like and Saddam-like mind. The other similar explanation offered was blaming some other Muslims, saying it was they. They [enemies] offered this explanation to cause disunity. This was their aim. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Explains MKO Role in Bombing

LD0507104994 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT
5 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—A senior official at Iran's Information Ministry outlined details on the ministry's latest measures in connection with June 20 bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) by the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq organization (MKO).

Managing director for internal security at the information ministry, Musavi-Nezhad, told IRNA here Monday that 'deepening the differences for creation of tension' has been included in the MKO agenda for terrorist operations.

Pointing to the MKO plans to create crisis as a means to weaken the Islamic system, he referred to the attacks on oil pipelines in southern Iran by the MKO members who infiltrated the country through Iraq to create economic crisis.

But, the official stressed, in its new plan the MKO has included another subject in its agenda, namely aggravating ethnic and religious differences.

The source further added that by resorting to such a vicious means the MKO is in fact following two objectives: creating a situation whereby they could embarrass Iran on the issue of human rights and secondly creating regional ethnic conflicts.

The MKO terrorists in their intra-organizational analyses had come to the conclusion that fanning the flames

of disputes between Sunni and Shi'ite muslims would deal a major blow on the Islamic republic both inside and outside the country.

The MKO held the idea that the Sunni-Shi'ite rift would create chaos inside the country while it would deprive Iran of the support of Sunni Muslims abroad, he said.

Bomb 'Defused' at Tehran Shrine

*LD0507134694 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT
5 Jul 94*

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—A bomb was discovered and defused before being carried into the shrine of Imam Khomeyni in southern Tehran this afternoon, according to an informed security official.

Two Arrested for Qom Bombing

*LD0507171094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jul 94*

[Text] An informed security source has announced: Two hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq members], who intended to bomb the shrine of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni and that of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh [sister of Imam Reza] in Qom today, were arrested this afternoon.

The first person intended to explode a bomb at the shrine of his holiness the imam during evening prayers this evening. She had placed the bomb, which weighed about 2.5 kg. in her handbag. [Tehran IRNA in English at 1544 GMT on 5 July adds: "The woman who identified herself as 'Leili' is 25 years old and has been handed over to the judiciary officials."]

The second terrorist intended to explode a bomb at the shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh in Qom, but was arrested by security forces an hour before doing so.

Investigations into the group of bombers continue and further information will be announced later.

More on Qom Bombing Attempt

*LD0507191694 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT
5 Jul 94*

[Text] Qom, July 5, IRNA—Following the arrest of a 25-year-old woman who was caught today in Tehran while carrying a bomb into Imam Khomeyni's shrine, the authorities have announced that they have arrested another member of the bombing network here.

An informed source told IRNA here tonight that a woman who was intending to plant a bomb in the shrine of Hazrat Ma'sumeh (a.s.) [peace be upon her] was caught and the bomb was defused.

A security official here announced that the woman had planted a 3.5-kilogram bomb in what looked like a copy of a mafatihul janan, a prayer book. She was planning to plant the bomb in the ladies' section of the shrine.

The source said that the woman was arrested at 16:45 local time and is detained pending trial.

Blasts Seen To Disgrace MKO

*NC0607075394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT
6 Jul 94*

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] With the arrest of and confessions by the organizational pawns of the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO], the scale of this group's extensive operations is being revealed. The links in the chain of explosions that were to take place one after the other in Shiite and Sunni religious shrines in our country show that the tragedy the monafeqin intended to create was much deeper than the tragedy the criminals perpetrated in the holy shrine of the eighth Imam in Mashhad on the day of 'Ashura during which dozens of mourners were killed.

The arrest of the monafeqin's operational pawns in various parts of the country and their confessions show that their recurring operations in blowing up Sunni and Shiite religious shrines, operations aimed at questioning the unity of Islam in the heart of Islam, formed only part of the operational plans of the monafeqin, who simultaneously pursue other objectives. The other aspects of these operations had economic and security dimensions and were aimed at creating simultaneous economic, security, and religious crises.

What is gleaned from this plan is that these operations are not limited to the framework of the monafeqin's planning potential, but should be placed within a larger framework, the most tragic part of which—that is, its implementation—has unfortunately been undertaken by the leaders of the monafeqin group, who have transformed unknowing pawns into the links in this bloody inhuman chain.

The main objective of the heartless monafeqin and their masters is allegedly to create social differences and schisms in the economic, security, and religious fields and then to activate these schisms. Protracting these schisms, activating them, and following them with internal disintegration in the Islamic society were what the foreign masters of the monafeqin favored most. Behind all the deceit and stratagems the objective was one of inflicting blows on Islam and Islamism at its primary source, that is, Islamic Iran. And the unbelievers plotted and planned, and God too planned, and the best of planners is God. [Koranic verse]

But the blood shed by the martyrs at the bloody incident in Mashhad on 'Ashura and the blessings of the eighth Imam, who is always the guardian of Islam, in the heart of Islam, broke this mischievous chain. The links of this chain started to break one after the other and, next to the

great victory by the Muslim Iranian nation, this brought unending disgrace to the monafeqin and their Arab and Western masters.

Mashhad Toll Rises

*LD0607111294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
6 Jul 94*

[Text] Families of martyrs of the bloody 'Ashura tragedy in Mashhad sent letters to international organizations and forums admonishing them for their silence about the crime of the hypocrites [monafeqin—pejorative reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq] in desecrating the holy shrine of His Holiness Imam Reza, peace be upon him, and asking the international forums to deal more decisively with the beastly deed of the black-hearted hypocrites.

In their letters the families of the martyrs of the Mashhad tragedy condemn the political, financial and propaganda support given by certain western countries to the hypocrites and call on international forums to bring pressure to bear on such countries and shut down the operations of that heretical mini-group.

In their letters the families admonish the Iraqi Government for its military and financial support for the hypocrites and call on international forums and organizations to force the Iraqi Government to take steps to close down the offices of the hypocrites as soon as possible and cease its military support for them.

In a news conference today the director general for international affairs of the Martyr's Foundation, referring to the fact that two more victims of the tragedy have been martyred, announced the number of martyrs of the Mashhad tragedy as 26. He said the Martyr's Foundation protects the families of those martyrs, as in the case of other martyrs, and has placed the necessary facilities at their disposal.

Infighting in MKO Flares Up

*LD0607095694 Tehran IRNA in English 0909 GMT
6 Jul 94*

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—Following the June 20 bombing of holy shrine of Imam Reza (as), the members of the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) are apparently involved with intra-group rivalry and infighting.

A source affiliated to the MKO who also attends its secret meetings in Europe said despite the group's attempt to deny its involvement in the holy shrine blast in Mashhad, its involvement is confirmed in the private parleys among its members.

In the afternoon of June 20 that coincided with Ashura (10th of Moharram in the lunar Hegira calendar of Muslims), a time-bomb installed at the holy shrine went off, killing 26 pilgrims and wounding some 170 others.

The same source said that top MKO elements are organizing regular meetings with members in a bid to justify their strategy and prevent intra-organizational rift. The MKO meetings for this purpose are organized by Hadi Rowshan-Ravan upon ringleader Masud Rajavi's recommendation, he said.

The same source further added that some former MKO terrorists who have ideologically dissociated themselves from the organization have led a life of total seclusion since few days ago to ensure their security from vengeance by the higher ranking MKO agents.

He said those MKOs are in peril of death since secret agents have been commissioned to capture or eliminate them.

Since 1992, he said, at least 36 MKOs had lost their lives due to infighting within the terrorist organization.

Since the return to Iran last year of a number of repentant MKO members who were privy to much secret developments within MKO, the organization decided to commit newcomers to remain with MKO for an indefinite time in future thus denying them the right to quit for any reason.

According to an organizational document every newcomer has to sign an undertaking binding him to remain within organization throughout his life or should expect capital punishment without protest in the event of an unauthorized desertion.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has frequently announced that those members of the MKO living outside Iran who should be repenting their past and who should voluntarily choose to abjure their affiliation with the organization would be welcome to report to the Iranian embassies in their respective countries and say so and rest assured that they would be welcomed home as pardoned citizens without pain of punishment for their previous affiliations.

During the past 18 months tens of former MKO's seized the opportunity granted to them and returned home.

Program Views U.S. Attempts to Pressure Iran

*LD3006204294 Tehran IRIB Television Second
Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jun 94*

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The different pressures exerted on the Islamic Republic of Iran have had several different aspects. There is, however, one common feature which links them all—that is, the contempt and grudge of the White House against Islam and Muslims. In this connection, international forums, such as the UN [United Nations], have always acted like their secure base, in which the West, especially America, has invariably organized and enacted their political onslaughts against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In order to achieve its aims, Washington also deploys regional organizations. It has tried, at every opportunity,

to encourage and provoke the regional countries to show animosity toward the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In contextual terms, too, the American strategists have focused on two main points since the victory of the Islamic revolution. On the basis of recommendations by these strategists, on the one hand the White House has accused Tehran of violating human rights, and on the other hand it has claimed that Tehran supports terrorist actions. Of course, events and developments during recent years have clearly shown that the remarks made by U.S. officials on human rights are simply part of a now discredited political game, the blueprint for which has been formulated in a way to meet the West's specific interests and objectives.

International research which was published throughout the world last week, clarified that, while Washington is regularly and continuously selling weapons to 19 countries which violate human rights—such as Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia—as well as providing special training for interrogators working in these countries, it still constantly warns other countries against violating human rights. The said research also stresses that remarks by Clinton, the young American President, on human rights are nothing but mere rhetoric.

With regard to America's second claim—that is Iran's support for terrorist actions—it must be clear now, after the passage of 15 years since the victory of Islamic revolution, that Iran itself is one of the victims of acts of terrorism carried out by grudging armed grouplets and their international backers. During these years more than 100 senior religious and political personalities of the system have lost their lives in acts of terrorism, and hundreds of people have been sacrificed due to bomb blasts and armed attacks by America's agents in Iran.

The recent crime of the monafeqin in the holy shrine of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, which also constituted a violation of the sanctity of the sacred notions of Muslims, is a clear example of such terrorist actions and the meaningful silence of America and international organizations who claim to champion human rights.

In its international dimension, too, the fact that these days coincide with the anniversary of the abduction of a number of Iranian diplomats in Lebanon—an act perpetrated by agents of international Zionism—is a reminder that, by organizing terrorist actions inside Iran and abroad, the White House has been continuously pursuing efforts aimed at exerting pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Now, many years have passed since the kidnapping of four of this nation's children in Lebanon. Have those who claim to fight against terrorism even once seriously considered the fate of those individuals during the long years? Or, as it seems from appearances, have those involved in such terrorist activities only tried to obliterate their military and political footsteps from the scene? Have the West and the Western mass media, which used to call the kidnapping of the Western spies

and mercenaries in Lebanon a blatant violation of human rights, and used to accuse Tehran of supporting such acts, a worthwhile response now to the accusation against themselves of keeping silent and supporting the terrorist act of the Zionists and their agents in kidnapping four Iranian diplomats?

America is known as one of the countries most involved in the violation of international law. However, because of its influence within the United Nations and other international organizations, the world has not been able to stand up to the obvious aggressions of Washington. In this regard the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the countries which has witnessed the direct and indirect actions of America.

From the very formation of Iran's Islamic revolution and through various pre-planned plots, Washington has stood against the waves of the Iranian nation experiencing its revolution. In the military domain, these plots have continued directly or indirectly from the beginning of that sacred movement. Mercenary grouplets are among puppets used indirectly by the White House to further these illegitimate aims. The recent bombing at the shrine of the eighth imam, which led to the martyrdom of a group of pilgrims, is one of the obvious crimes committed by the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] with the cooperation of the United States. Another of these plots was the unconditional support provided by Washington for the Iraqi regime during the eight years of sacred defensive war, which aimed at weakening the Islamic revolution. Parallel to the support and cooperation provided for the opposition and enemies of Islamic Iran, the White House has also operated independently. These include the events of Tabbas and the attack on oil installations during the imposed war.

But the height of criminality and cruelty committed by Washington's statesmen is the American attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran's passenger airliner. On the morning of Sunday 3 July 1988, and in an inhumane act, the aggressive American forces attacked an Iranian Airbus, with 290 passengers and crew, over the waters of the Persian Gulf near the island of Hangam. During this attack, America—through the forces aboard the Vincennes—used two missiles to carry out its evil aim. Among the victims of this attack were 57 children and 53 women. Many analysts believe that this inhuman act was the beginning of a face to face war by the United States against the Islamic Republic. In this regard, and two days prior to the attack on the Iranian passenger airliner, General George Greece [as heard], the commander of Pentagon operations in the Persian Gulf, clearly announced that he was waiting for a new excuse to initiate conflict between America and Iran. But this act of inhumane criminality meant defeat for Washington officials in the face of world public opinion, and they tried to rationalize the aggression. In an interview General William Craft, the commander in chief of U.S. Forces, tried to rationalize the act by saying that the

Vincennes had fired the missile against the passenger airliner in self-defense. [passage omitted]

However, all existing facts indicate that America is itself the main source of international terrorism in the world. And while such obvious crimes continue and international law fails to provide sufficient effective guarantees against such aggressions, the world will continue to witness increasing chaos.

Velayati: No Effort To Be Spared To End Yemeni War

*LD0507195494 Tehran IRNA in English 1849 GMT
5 Jul 94*

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—Head of a Yemeni parliamentary delegation visiting Tehran 'Abd-al-Malik al-Wazir told Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday that the current crisis in Yemen has been fanned by certain foreign governments.

He did not single out those governments in name but said that the scheme had been adopted in the wake of the poor performance of the socialists in the recent elections in Yemen with the goal of dismembering Yemen.

The Yemeni official appreciated the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the current developments in that country, and for being committed to the territorial integrity of Yemen.

The Iranian foreign minister, Velayati, in response deplored the current turmoil in Yemen which, he said, was causing fratricide in that country. He said any scheme by any regional or international power that should serve to fan the flames of the civil war in Yemen is an act against the best interests of Islam and humanity for that matter. Velayati said Iran has always been for peace and stability in the region and assured the Yemeni official that the Iranian administration would not spare any effort that might serve to curtail fratricide in Yemen.

Media Comments on 'Arafat's Arrival in Gaza Strip

Radio Views Arrival

LD0207204794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 2 Jul 94

[Text] The PLO chief, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in the Gaza Strip on Friday noon July 1st despite opposition to and condemnation of the visit by major Palestinian movements. Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the Gaza Strip through Egypt and via the land bordering the region after 27 years in exile.

The visit of Mr 'Arafat to Gaza, and later to Ariha [Jericho], is taking place within the framework of an agreement signed under the name of Gaza-Ariha agreement ten months ago. According to the agreement only two percent of Palestine's territory, that is the occupied Gaza Strip and part of the Ariha region, have been set

aside where the so-called self-rule government is to be run by the PLO. According to many Palestinian groups such limited self-rule offered by the Zionist usurper is not only devoid of any political legitimacy, but is also openly counter to the principle of sovereignty of an autonomous state according to international law.

At the same time, Palestinian groups opposed to the Gaza-Ariha accord believe that there are several obstacles in the way of implementation of the said accord which have remained untouched. It is interesting to know what Yasir 'Arafat's deputy has said in this connection. He says there are only 26 points over which the two sides continue to differ, despite the implementation of the initial phase of the self-rule plan. In other words, it can be said that despite all the Western propaganda about the recent developments with respect to the Palestinian issue, there are still significant issues that have remained unresolved and are not likely to be settled easily.

Despite the emphasis laid on the return of millions of Palestinian refugees to their homeland in the Security Council resolutions, they will not be able to return home after 46 years and thousands of Palestinians opposing the accord still remain in the dreaded prisons of Israel, for whose families Mr 'Arafat has nothing to say except wishing for their freedom.

The problems of Beyt almoqaddas [Jerusalem] which, notwithstanding the Gaza-Ariha accord can be raised after the passage of three years, is already a resolved issue in the eyes of the Israeli officials and the occupied Beyt almoqaddas despite the Security Council resolutions is being projected as the capital and integral part of Israel. Now in view of these conditions and tens of other obstacles confronting the two sides, two viewpoints or two trends can be clearly seen in connection with Mr 'Arafat's arrival in Gaza. First, the trend opposing the compromising approach, which questions the ignoring of the Security Council resolutions and the fate of the 98 percent of Palestine's territory. The second factor is related to the ignoring of the rights of the Palestinian nation and moving in line with Israel and the United States. It is the factor that insists on the Zionist regime as being the caretaker in Gaza and Ariha. But notwithstanding all these issues, it is the ideals and aspirations of the Palestinian nation that will decide the fate through the efforts and struggle of the Palestinians.

Daily: 'No One Pleased' With Visit

*LD0207102194 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT
2 Jul 94*

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOM-HURI-YE ESLAMI' here Saturday commented on the visit to Gaza of chairman of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat, scheduled for today, and said no one is pleased with the trip.

'Arafat's visit to Gaza is the first political trip after 27 years in the framework of the Gaza-Jericho compromise deal signed last September between the Zionist regime and the PLO.

The trip to Gaza has not only angered Palestinian Muslims and Islamic groups but even those regimes supporting the compromise talks with the Zionist have not welcomed it, said the paper in a commentary.

Political situation in the region is critical to the extent that even leaders of Arab countries are scared of openly confirming 'Arafat's compromise with the Zionist regime and despite taking part in 11 rounds of talks, still do not dare support the PLO chairman's move.

They feel that any approval for 'Arafat's treacherous move would lead to a chaotic situation in their countries, said the article.

However, the fate of the region will depend on the public opinion of the combatant and devout Muslims who change the regional political equation through their fightings in Palestine and Lebanon specially in South Lebanon, concluded the commentary.

Protestant Denomination Leader, Convert Found Dead

Pastor Found Murdered

NC0407094594 Paris AFP in English 0903 GMT
4 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 4 (AFP)—The leader of a small Iranian Protestant denomination, Tedhis Mikhailyan, was murdered last week in mysterious circumstances, officials from his Assembly of God said Monday.

Pastor Mikhailyan disappeared last Wednesday in Tehran and his body was found on Saturday, the officials said. His predecessor, Haik Hovsepyan, was also murdered in January in Tehran.

Convert's Body Found During Search

LD0507182394 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT
5 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 5, IRNA—The law enforcement forces here today announced that they have found the body of Mehdi Dibaj who had been missing and unheard of for some months.

While searching for the killer of Tedhis Mikhailyan, a priest, the law enforcement forces here discovered Dibaj's body.

"While conducting investigations into the death of Mikhailyan who had disappeared last week we found an unidentified body later identified by Dibaj's relatives to be the body of Dibaj," a law enforcement official said.

Dibaj's body was found in a recreation forest located in the western part of Tehran.

Opposition Group Blames Regime for Murder

NC0607105194 Paris AFP in English 1000 GMT
6 Jul 94

[Report by Kianouche Dorrane—names as received]

[Text] Tehran, July 6 (AFP)—Iranian Protestants were in shock Wednesday after the death of a third pastor in mysterious circumstances since the beginning of the year.

Mehdi Dibaj, who had converted from Islam to Christianity, was found dead in a wood in western Tehran late Tuesday after being missing for two weeks. It was unclear how he had died.

Dibaj's body was found while police investigated another murder—that of Pastor Tedhis Mikhailyan, who disappeared last Wednesday and was found dead 48 hours later.

The double death follows the kidnapping and murder of Protestant religious leader Pastor Hayik Hovsepyan in January.

"These killings are a huge blow to the Protestant community" in Iran, which is "in shock from these murders in quick succession," an Iranian protestant said Wednesday, on condition of anonymity.

"The community has been decapitated." He added that the murders "confirm the existence of a growing climate of intolerance towards Protestants" in Iran.

There are a total of six Protestant denominations in the country claiming 15,000 followers—mostly former members of the Armenian Orthodox Church.

The three pastors were all active churchmen.

Hovsepyan, who was abducted while driving to Tehran airport, led the Assembly of God, which included Dibaj among its followers. It was known for its active proselytizing which appeared to irritate other religious communities in Iran.

Hovsepyan's family said the pastor had been put under pressure by the authorities and that his death was linked to his religious activities—especially his calls for the Dibaj's release from prison.

Dibaj, 59, was jailed for nine years for an "offence against Islam," after converting from Islam to Christianity at the age of 19.

He was released on a warning in January, several days before the murder of his supporter Hovsepyan.

Relatives of Dibaj said last year that he had been condemned to death, but Iranian authorities said the accusation was "baseless."

He disappeared two weeks ago at Sari, in northern Iran, his relatives added.

Meanwhile Mikhailyan, 62, pastor at the Protestant Evangelical Church of Tehran which has close links with the Assembly of God, disappeared last Wednesday in the Iranian capital.

His body was found on Sunday. He had been killed by two bullets, one in the head and another in the chest, his family said.

They added he had not appeared to have any problems with Iranian authorities. He had even been invited to give lessons at Tehran University.

But some of his colleagues have said Mikhailyan felt threatened in the last few weeks of his life.

Several days after Hovsepian's murder, police said they had arrested a suspect. But no further information has been released.

An interior ministry spokesman said an inquiry had been launched to into the deaths of Dibaj and Mikhailyan.

On Wednesday, a leader of the 250,000-strong Armenian Orthodox Church said "suspected hands are trying to create tension between different religious communities, and especially between Moslems and Christians."

[In a related, Nicosia-dated report, Paris AFP in English at 1011 GMT on 6 July adds the following: "Iran's main armed opposition group, the People's Mojahedin, accused Tehran on Wednesday of the 'murder' of Protestant pastor Mehdi Dibaj.

["The Iraqi-based opposition group condemned 'the ruthless murder of the courageous bishop Mehdi Dibaj by the gang of criminals ruling Iran,' in a statement received by AFP here.

["The body of the 59-year-old pastor was found in a wood in western Tehran on Tuesday, but there were no immediate reports of how he died.

["The statement called on the international community to break 'its silence towards the crimes of this medieval regime.'

["A People's Mojahedin spokesman blamed Iranian intelligence for Mikhailyan's death, and that of Protestant pastor Hayik Hovsepian discovered dead in January."]

Embassy Urges Determining Fate of Kidnapped Diplomats

LD0507194594 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT*
5 Jul 94

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, on the 12th anniversary of the kidnapping of four Iranian diplomats in Lebanon, our country's embassy in Beirut issued a statement calling on all human rights organizations and the Lebanese judiciary to try to ascertain the fate of the kidnapped diplomats.

The four Iranian diplomats were kidnapped 12 years ago at the Barbarah inspection post, despite having diplomatic immunity.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Talks With India's Bhatia

LD0607103094 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT*
6 Jul 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received today Mr. Bhatia, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs.

In the course of this meeting Mr. Bhatia referred to the views exchanged between him and our country's officials on bilateral, regional, and international issues, and said: Taking into account the pivotal role of Iran in the region and the Persian Gulf, India is in favor of expansion of relations with this country. He also conveyed to the president a report on the recent visits of Indian Prime Minister Rao, including his visit to Russia.

According to a report by our correspondent, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani likewise considered the cooperation between Iran and India in the international arena—the two great and powerful countries in the region—to be necessary, and he emphasized the consolidation of relations between both countries on mutual grounds.

The president, having stressed the need to remove the tension between the two neighboring countries, India and Pakistan, for the strengthening of the regional cooperation, expressed hopes that through talks and peaceful settlement, both countries will be able to take steps in a peaceful way based on the interest of the people of both countries and region.

Declines Offer To Repair Shrine

LD0607102394 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT*
6 Jul 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani sent a reply to a message from Mrs Bhutto, the Pakistani prime minister, who declared her country's preparedness to help in repairing the damage caused by the recent crime of international terrorism at the holy shrine of His Holiness Imam Reza [in Mashhad], peace be upon him.

Thanking the Muslim government and nation of Pakistan for their expression of sympathy and sorrow the president stated: Fortunately, thanks to God's blessing, the necessary repairs were carried out in the first few hours after the explosion and the holy shrine of the eighth imam continues to be open to masses of eager pilgrims.

Impact of Depreciation of Dollar on World Market Viewed

NC3006175794 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English*
26 Jun 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Dollar Continues To Go Down"]

[Text] The dollar's unprecedented slide against the Japanese yen in the past week, which reached its post-World War II record low, was the hottest economic news of the week.

The new crisis is the most serious problem faced in the past few months by the Japanese economy, which was going through a period of relative improvement.

Faced by an unexpected crisis, the Japanese authorities decided to take special measures to stop the trend of the rise in the value of yen against the dollar, and the Japanese central bank made a huge effort to prop up the crumbling dollar.

On the other hand, the American economy is still going through a period of recession. The American foreign trade with Japan is still burdened with substantial deficit, and the U.S. government has not yet reached agreement with Japan on lifting barriers to the export of the American products to that country. Under the circumstances, the cheaper dollar will make it possible for the American producers to find footholds for their commodities in the export markets specially in Japan which has so far remained closed to them.

The new trend will also work to the benefit of the U.S. economy in yet another way. A weak dollar against the yen will force Japan to open its markets to the U.S. products.

The United States is ostensibly complaining about the new developments, but it is common knowledge that the U.S. will derive huge benefits from the current economic circumstances.

And although the dollar's decline against the Japanese yen apparently affects only trade relations between Japan and the U.S., the situation will in fact have strong effects on the entire world economic structure, leaving positive or negative effects on various countries depending on their economic relations with the United States.

Among the international organizations which will be hardest hit by the declining dollar is the OPEC. The Organization of the Oil Exporting Countries has been tied to the dollar since the establishment of the organization, and the half-hearted attempts which have been made so far to break away from the U.S. currency have remained unsuccessful. Consequently, the OPEC member countries have been sustaining double losses, resulting from the declining oil prices and the sinking value of dollar. Under the circumstances it is absolutely imperative for the OPEC member countries to make a concerted, bold and decisive effort to cut off the umbilical cord which ties them to the dollar.